



THE INDEPENDENT

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16-PAGE SUPPLEMENT, WITH JOBS

Heath: 'I executed Polish soldier for wartime rape'



Sir Edward: 'I felt uneasy'

SIR EDWARD Heath commanded a firing squad that executed a Polish soldier for rape during the Second World War, according to a documentary that offers rare insights into an intensely private politician.

The episode, which had a profound effect on Sir Edward, took place when he was a major in the Royal Artillery in Germany at the end of the war. It is related for the first time in *A Very Singular Man*, a television

BY KATHY MARKS

REPORTED BY MICHAEL COCKERELL

and then later on when you pass over their ground, you see dead bodies lying around.

"That's one thing. That's war. But it's different when you have an individual. I didn't sleep particularly well that night."

The documentary, to be broadcast on BBC2 on Sunday evening, also reveals that senior Conservatives tried to marry off Sir Edward when he was prime minister because they felt that his bachelor status made him

appear remote and out of touch.

The bride whom they had in mind was Dame Moura Lympany, a concert pianist who regularly visited Downing Street and Chequers while he was in office from 1970-74. He was an accomplished pianist and conductor and the two played in concerts together.

Dame Moura, now 82, like Sir Edward, tells Mr Cockerell that she received a visit from the late Sir Tufton Beamish, a member

of the executive of the 1922 Committee. "Tufton came to see me at my house and said, 'Ted must get married, will you marry him?'" she says. "Well, I would have regarded it as a great honour if Ted had asked me to marry him."

Asked whether she would have accepted, she says: "Ah, if I hadn't been in love with somebody else."

Sir Edward, who has never married, tells Mr Cockerell: "I

liked Moura and apparently she liked me. We had an interest in food and wine and in discussing musical performances."

When

he

is

shown

footage

of

Dame

Moura

describing

Sir

Tufton's

visit

Sir

Edward's

eyes

light

up.

He

says:

"Tufton never

discussed

it

with

me, but nothing

surprises

me

anymore."

Gallantly,

he

declines

to

say

whether

he

would

have

married

her.

Sir

Edward,

who

is

still

an

MP

joined

the

Royal

Artillery

as

a

gunner

at

the

beginning

of

the

war,

and

ended

his

military

career

as

a

colonel

in

Germany

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Tate archives 'altered for fraud'

An alleged art fraudster was accused in court of altering Tate Gallery archives to create histories for fake works by famous modern artists, which flooded the market. Page 5

Ashdown defeated on schools

Party activists at the Liberal Democrat conference overwhelmingly turned down key proposals to shift power over schools from local councillors to parents. Page 10

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Iran's hardliners losing grip

The easing of the death threat against Salman Rushdie is a sign of President Mohammad Khatami's power to control Iran's conservative clerics. Page 12

Nato plans force against Serbs

Nato took its first steps towards assembling a multinational force to carry out air strikes to halt Slobodan Milosevic's offensive against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Page 12

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Go-ahead for power takeover

PowerGen is to agree to the sale of double the generating capacity it first offered in return for approval of its £1.5bn takeover of East Midlands Electricity. Page 18

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Hick on stand-by for Ashes tour

Gratton Hick, who was left out of the England party for the Ashes tour of Australia, has been put on stand-by with Andrew Caddick and Phil Tufnell. Page 25

McMahon resigns from Swindon

Former Liverpool and England midfielder Steve McMahon resigned as manager of £5m-in-debt Swindon Town after failing to win the confidence of supporters. Page 30

THURSDAY REVIEW
20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

'More than one-third of fathers and mothers confessed to administering "severe" physical punishment, including beatings, burnings and cold baths.' Page 4

Andreas Whittam Smith

MIS has an instinctive reluctance to put anything at all into the public domain. Thus, the only files which are available at the Public Record Office cover the period from its foundation in 1909 to 1919.' Page 5

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Cryptic crossword, section one, page 30



Recycled paper made up 46.03 per cent of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

PR opposed by Labour grass roots

By ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

STRONG EVIDENCE of grass-roots Labour opposition to proportional representation emerged last night in a survey of 150 constituency party members.

In a warning shot across Tony Blair's bows as he prepares to decide whether to change the voting system for general elections, the poll suggested he will have serious problems persuading his party to support electoral reform. The survey was organised by the AEEU engineering union, which will lead the fight against changing the first-past-the-post system at next week's Labour conference.

BPRI, an independent research agency that questioned the local party chairmen, found that a majority (62 per cent) believed PR leads to weak coalition government. Almost three-quarters thought PR would give disproportionate power and influence to smaller parties such as the Liberal Democrats.

A majority (56 per cent) regarded as 'flawed' the proposal expected to be recommended



Jenkins: Reform 'flawed'

next month by the commission on electoral reform chaired by Lord Jenkins of Hillside, the Liberal Democrat peer. Under the plan, about 500 MPs would be elected under the alternative vote system, allowing people to list candidates in their order of preference, 'topped up' by another 100 chosen to reflect each party's share of the vote in each region.

A huge majority (66 per cent) of those polled believed the introduction of a regional list system of candidates would give more power to Labour headquarters and take it away from ordinary members. More than half (56 per cent) thought regional lists would make it less

likely that working class people were elected to Parliament.

Ken Jackson, the AEEU's general secretary, said: 'No more proof is needed - the Labour Party will not want to take a leap into the dark and abandon first-past-the-post. Unions and constituencies are united in rejecting change for change's sake.'

An AEEU source said the poll findings 'put the skids' under Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown's attempt to win a seat in Mr Blair's Cabinet and form a coalition with Labour.

The union's survey was dismissed by the Make Votes Count campaign, which supports change. It said the poll was flawed because the questions were loaded, and that some chairmen had not had time to consult members.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, adds his voice to those cabinet ministers who oppose PR in today's *New Statesman* magazine. He says: 'Most people know that one of the features of Parliamentary democracy is the link between the member and the constituency. I value that, which is one of the reasons why I remain to be convinced.'



Trevor Rees-Jones: law suit marks final breakdown of relations with former employer

Rees-Jones sues the Ritz

TREVOR REES-JONES, the

bodyguard who survived the

crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday brought a legal action against the Ritz Hotel for its role in events leading to the accident.

The move could lead to criminal charges against senior managers of the Paris hotel, which is owned by Mr Rees-Jones' former employer, Mohammed al-Fayed. Although technically a complaint against

persons unknown, Mr Rees-Jones alleges negligence on the part of the Ritz, and a limousine company, in allowing the crash to be driven by an unqualified driver.

The legal action marks the final breakdown of relations between the former bodyguard and Mr Fayed. Mr Rees-Jones, who resigned from Mr Fayed's

staff in May, is already suing the

Harrods

owner in Britain. He

alleges that he has reneged on

a written commitment to pay all

his legal bills arising from the

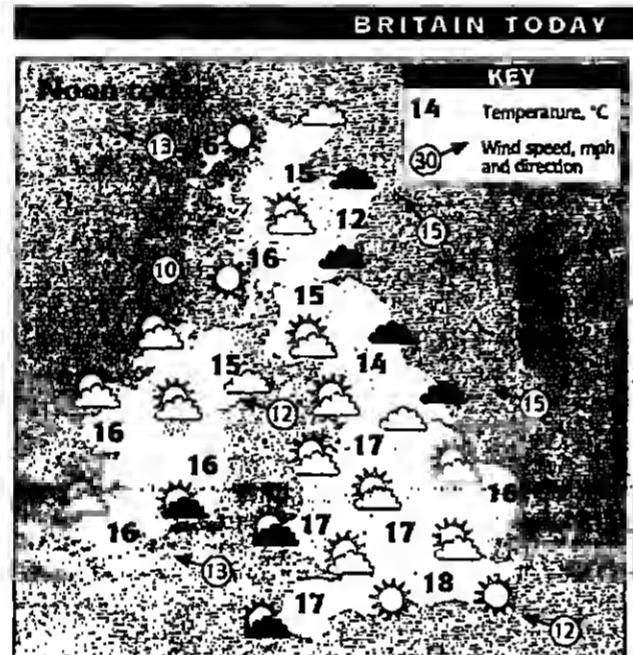
accident in August last year. If

Mr Fayed would have to fund Mr

Rees-Jones's action against

the Ritz, his own company.

Mr Rees-Jones was grievously injured in the 1997 crash which killed Diana, Dodi Fayed, and their driver, Henri Paul.



FORECAST

General situation: South-west England and Wales will have sunny spells, but there is a threat of showers. Northern Ireland will brighten up after grey start, but showers are possible this afternoon. Elsewhere it will be mostly dry with fog and mist in the south. Some rain in many places, but north of the Humber, eastern counties are likely to stay dull.

London, East, S & SE England, Midlands, NW Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Early mist and low cloud lifting to leave warm sun, but there is a slim risk of showers in the more western fringes later. A light to moderate easterly breeze. Max temp 19-22°C (56-72°F).

EE Anglia, East M, NE England: Morning mist and low cloud may linger well into the afternoon, but the sun will break through in a few places. A light easterly wind. Max temp 14-17°C (57-63°F).

Charnwood, SW England, W Wales: Quite warm with sunny spells, but also a risk of scattered heavy showers, perhaps thunder. A moderate south-east breeze. Max temp 18-21°C (64-70°F).

NI Ireland: Slowly brightening up after a grey start, but showers may return. Some rain in the west, but parts of the Central Lowlands may stay rather cloudy. A light east wind. Max temp 17-20°C (63-68°F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Ireland: Mist and low cloud lifting near the coast, but it will be much brighter and warmer to the west of high ground. A light south-east wind. Max temp 15-18°C (59-64°F), but only 13°C (55°F) where it stays dull.

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Has London theatre reached the stage where it can't find a decent audience?

'London Theatre is impersonal. Its audiences are full of tourists; its actors do not have a communal spirit'

WHEN SIR Ian McKellen fired his broadside at theatre in the capital in an interview in *The Independent* yesterday, he did so in spirited style. He questioned whether some people in the audience at the National Theatre could even speak the language and wondered why there were no black faces in the audience. And he said he was moving for six months to Leeds to fulfilment in the repertory company of the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Sir Ian is not the first of Britain's great classical actors to be caustic about London audiences. Six years ago Sir Alec Guinness turned his back on the West End, remarking: 'I'd rather go to the provinces where they still speak English and not Japanese.'

Sir Ian McKellen chooses more lyrical language. He does not, he says, want to 'betray the soul of acting' by performing any more in large theatres with no idea of what sort of people are in the audience. In the regions, he says, local people look on the theatre as theirs and build up a relationship with the actors, just as the actors in an old-fashioned rep company where they appear in several plays and build up a relationship with each other.

In Leeds, the West Yorkshire Playhouse artistic director, Jude Kelly, is making radical attempts to bring theatre to new audiences. There has already been a cyber café, and there will soon be video screens in the foyer to accompany an adaptation of the best-selling book *Deathtrap* by the multimedia artist Q.

Jude Kelly said: 'To secure the future of theatre we need to find ways to encourage new, young audiences. To do this it is essential that we explore mediums that excite and enthral younger generations and celebrate subjects and ideas that appeal to them.'

And London's best-known

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

Impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh has chosen to premiere his second re-working of the musical *Martin Guerre* in Leeds, saying: 'The West Yorkshire Playhouse is without doubt one of the most exciting and adventurous regional theatres in the country and I am proud to be a part of it.'

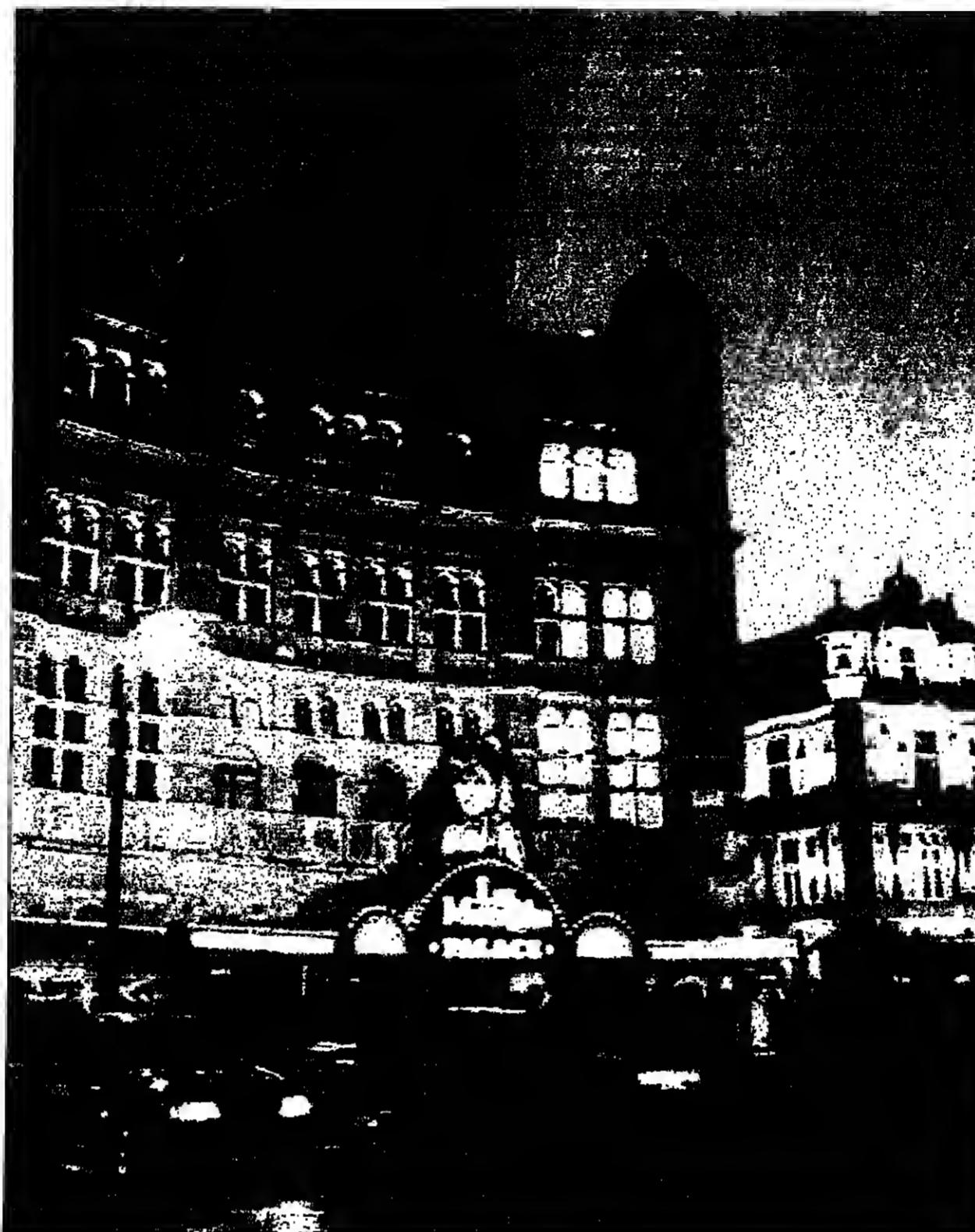
Yesterday a bewildered theatreland in London was fighting back. The Society of London Theatre pointed to a new report, prepared at the London School of Economics, which shows West End theatre as a billion-pound business. In the first study to give a complete picture of the popularity and economic impact of theatre in the capital, it shows that 11.5 million seats were sold in the West End last year with a ticket revenue of £246m.

The report, written by Tony Travers, director of the Greater London Group at the LSE, also states that 41,000 jobs depend on West End theatre, theatregoers in London spent £433m on restaurants, hotels, transport and merchandise last year and London theatre's total economic impact in 1997 was £1.075m.

Nica Burns, production director of Stoll Moss Theatres, said last night: 'Please come back Ian McKellen. The West End would love to have you back and you would find that we have a flush of contemporary writing with such shows as *Popcorn* and *Closer*. It's a terrible misconception that most audiences are made up of tourists.'

The West End producer Thelma Holt, who is also the Cameron Mackintosh professor of contemporary theatre at Oxford University, said: 'I think British audiences are the best in the world. Last week three and a half hours of *Hamlet* in Japanese received rapturous applause at the Barbican. Of course there are a lot of foreigners in our audiences but I think that's an advantage. It's nice to have a cosmopolitan audience.'

Leading article,
Review, page 3



West End theatres generate much revenue for the capital's economy and provide 41,000 jobs

Emma Boam

IS IAN MCKELLEN RIGHT? THE VIEW FROM THE STALLS

The Independent went to a performance of *Closer* at the Lyric Theatre, in Shaftesbury Avenue, London, to ask the attendees whether West End audiences actually appreciate what they're seeing on the stage.

Craig Kennedy, 42, attorney, from San Francisco

'I know absolutely nothing about this play. We bought tickets for it at a half-price ticket booth after flying in this morning. What this actor says is fine by me.'



Sue Hall, 43, housewife, from Putney, London

'I haven't been to the theatre for quite a long time - I just haven't arranged it for a while. I think it's probably right that there are a lot of tourists because they have the time to go.'



Robert Southgate, 64, retired, from Warwickshire

'I come to the theatre a lot. If he [Sir Ian McKellen] said he would rather play in the provinces I'm delighted about it because I'm on the board of the Birmingham Rep.'



Anne Tilley, 51, travel agent from Tunbridge Wells, Kent

'I don't understand McKellen's remarks. An audience is an audience wherever they come from. It would be like me saying I won't have anyone booking a holiday who isn't English.'



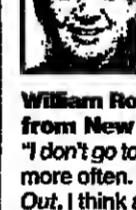
John Stone, 53, stockbroker, from Dagenham, Essex

'I come to the theatre very much... probably once a fortnight. I've got a lot of respect for Ian McKellen but I think London is the place for theatre and culture.'



Victoria Burke, 53, self-employed, from Tunbridge Wells, Kent

'We've done all the big ones - *Miss Saigon*, *Cats*, *Les Mis*... It's very sad that Ian McKellen has taken that attitude. It's quite arrogant to say foreigners don't appreciate the theatre.'



William Robertson, 34, yoga instructor from New Zealand

'I don't go to the theatre regularly. I see movies more often. I found out about this from *Time Out*. I think a large proportion of people seeing plays in London aren't from England.'



The Rev Geraldine James, 65, minister from Maryland, USA

'I love the theatre, but I don't go much in the States - so this is a treat for me. To me [Sir Ian McKellen's] reading into the mind of his audience something that might not be true.'



No hype, no glamour, but an ovation for Leicester

BY SHELDON MILLER

IT IS more than 100 miles off the West End tourist trail but Haymarket Theatre, Leicester, proves a big enough draw to attract a crowd of 300 on a Wednesday afternoon.

There is little in the way of hype or glamour. No one is offering tickets on the streets and no one is taking pictures outside the building for the folks back home. There is not a Japanese or an American in sight.

Here is a midweek mix of the elderly and students, with the odd suited professional, whose presence is conspicuous by the way they choose to sit alone, surrounded by empty seats. Time, space and relaxation is obviously what they want.

They are watching *The Rink*, a musical starring Linzi Hateley, better known for her recent performances in the world tour of *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This play has been adapted from Terrence McNally's book, about a rink which a mother wants demolished for the memories it holds but her daughter cherishes all it stands for.

Staff at the Haymarket are pleased with this afternoon's turnout. A crowd of 300 is a healthy midweek number in a theatre capacity of 750. Last year's audience figures, from March 1997 to March 1998, ran at 72 per cent of capacity; annual



The Haymarket Theatre, Leicester: 'Shows in London are far more profit-based'

turnover reached £1.5m. The Haymarket has never swelled with the same kind of audience figures as London's prestigious theatres but people are not here for the riches, it is the buzz that they are after. And it is the buzz they want to create.

Paul Kerrison, 40, is the artistic director. He has worked at the theatre for three years and before that in Chichester, Birmingham and Manchester. He has taken shows to London, and some were a success. So why is he not there now?

'London finds it more difficult to experiment... it's all geared to money. We too have to manage a budget, but we do

things because we want to do them and we like to experiment. There's room to do that here.'

'We had Eddie Izzard up here recently doing a performance of *Edward the Second* and it was fantastic. You would struggle to find that in London. Besides, it was more relevant to hold a performance here because it was here in Leicester where Edward the Second came to such a sticky end.'

'At the interval the crowd spills out into the foyer, left relatively untouched since the early Haymarket days of the Seventies. The carpet is a lurid mix of purple and pink zig-zags, but staff are working on a

lottery grant to change that. Three sisters, Eileen Nutall, Betty Potter and Sheila Roberts, are discussing the first hour of performance. Mrs Roberts, 62, of East Goscote, is a regular theatre goer. 'I love musicals and this is right up my street,' she said. 'I've paid just £5 for a seat. What more do you want to know?'

Gwen Rowlings, 31, is a teacher from Peterborough, who has come here with a party of students studying GNVQ performing arts. 'The students are enjoying this just as much as any London show they have seen,' she said.

Sally Anne Tye, head of marketing and sales at the Haymarket, says there is more experimentation in the regions because, 'there is a really strong commitment to audience development and outreach work... In Leicester, 35 per cent of the city's population is Asian, so we reflect that with Asian theatre initiatives, that's just one strand of our work. The Haymarket has got a reputation of presenting a broad balance of performances and taking risk...'

'There's too much West End bias, everyone outside of London knows that. We are happy to get on with our own thing, minus the hype. There hasn't been an explosion in the provinces, theatre development has always been strong and our audiences know that.'

FIVE REGIONAL POWERHOUSES

WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

Under Jude Kelly's dynamic leadership this has become a powerhouse of the north in the Nineties. So intent to involve local community it does not even have a stage door. Alan Rickman made his directorial debut.

NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE

Sir Richard Eyre was director in the Seventies and forged a challenging partnership with the playwrights David Hare and Howard Brenton. Has strong community links, sometimes selling tickets in night clubs.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH

The third largest theatre organisation in Britain. Its co-production of *West Side Story* is about to open in the West End. Runs the largest youth theatre in Britain and a community theatre, The People's Company.

ROYAL EXCHANGE, MANCHESTER

Reopens this autumn two years after being damaged in the IRA bombing of Manchester. The theatre in the round has attracted stars including Vanessa Redgrave, Robert Lindsay and Albert Finney.

BRISTOL OLD VIC

Britain's oldest working repertory theatre, the atmospheric 18th-century building has been home to top performers including Timothy West, Daniel Day-Lewis and Miranda Richardson.

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Shoppers being conned, says OFT

BRITAIN's largest supermarkets were the subject of fresh criticism yesterday when a report from the Office of Fair Trading accused them of using their near monopoly position to charge shoppers higher prices.

The report comes just weeks after the OFT launched an investigation into the supermarkets to establish whether stores like Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and Safeway use their huge buying power to drive down the prices they pay to suppliers but then fail to pass on those savings to consumers.

Paul Dobson, one of three academics commissioned by the OFT to produce the report, said yesterday that British shoppers must look at the prices charged in supermarkets overseas and wonder whether they are being "ripped off" at home.

"It appears from our research that there is generally

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

an absence of intense competition on high streets and in supermarkets," he said.

"The result is higher profits for the retailer but higher prices for the customer."

The report expresses concern that the increasing dominance of major supermarkets could lead to an abuse of power.

Research has shown that profit margins enjoyed by UK retailers are three times those of their counterparts in other countries in Europe and in the United States. The report shows that the market share of the largest five food retailers has grown from 28 per cent in 1984 to around 44 per cent. Profit margins have increased by 50 per cent in the same period.

As suppliers, farmers have been up in arms over their treatment by the supermarkets. One Ipswich pig farmer yesterday said that supermarkets paid him "half the cost of production". He added that it was impossible for UK farmers to produce animals at the same price as continental European rivals because of Britain's food production legislation.

Farmers have been incensed

by claims from Tesco that the supermarket group "makes no money on meat". Tesco and the other supermarkets maintain that more stringent food processing in the wake of the BSE scare has made the production of meat more expensive.

The OFT report was criticised by the supermarket operators. Asda said: "Whenever we achieve savings or our suppliers give us a better price, we pass that on to the customer."

The OFT is due to report its preliminary findings in December.



Cap and George, a yellow labrador and fox terrier, in their pens at U.K. Quarantine in Worlington, near Mildenhall, Suffolk; many animals at the holding base are placed there by American servicemen Brian Harris

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Pets' passports will supersede quarantine rules

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

A NATIONAL licensing scheme for Britain's 14 million cats and dogs is being drawn up by the government as part of its radical overhaul of quarantine laws.

The pet licence plan emerged yesterday as Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, backed an independent report that recommended a new system of "pet passports" and micro chip implants for animals entering the UK from Europe.

The long awaited Kennedy report, commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and published yesterday, called for the abolition of the six month quarantine for cats and dogs brought from European Union and other rabies-free countries.

Ian Kennedy, professor of health law at University College London, said that his panel of scientists had concluded that the sweeping changes to Britain's 100-year-old quarantine laws would not increase the current low risk of a rabid animal entering the UK.

Under the proposals outlined in the Kennedy report, animals travelling to Britain would have to be vaccinated and then have a micro chip implanted in their ear or neck to

prove their identity. The chip would be scanned by Customs officers to verify the pet's blood test certificate and owners would be charged up to £200, rather than the £2,500 it currently costs to keep them in quarantine.

The 300-page report predicts that the number of pets entering the country from abroad would soar from 7,300 a year to more than a quarter of a million a year, but insists that the six month detention period would remain for those nations deemed to have a high risk of rabies.

Pets coming from the United States will still have to undergo the six month wait as research shows that the disease is endemic in North America, but rabies-free islands such as Australia, New Zealand, Cyprus, Malta, Hawaii and others would be included in the new scheme.

The Government is in broad agreement with the proposals, but the minister revealed yesterday that it could be 2001 before they are implemented.

Vampires just had bad dose of rabies

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

Count DRACULA was a vampire - he had rabies, according to a Spanish doctor who says ancient European legends about the blood-drinking undead were actually descriptions of people with the illness.

The symptoms of the advanced form of the disease, in which the virus attacks the brain, include an aversion to bright light, water and mirrors, an apparent liking for blood and sex, and biting.

Juan Gomez-Alonso of the Xeral Hospital in Vigo, Spain, says these symptoms match the folklore of rapacious, sexually predatory vampires being unable to go out in the day, having no reflection, and burning if they touch water.

Muscle spasms in the neck can make victims look dog-like, and cause them to vomit blood, while some suffer violent fits.

In which case, it could be that what the Count needed was not a stake through the heart, but a needle in the arm - before he fell ill - for once the symptoms begin to show, the disease is invariably fatal.



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10/10/98

Galleries 'fooled by conman in elaborate art fraud'

AN EXPERT conman masterminded an art fraud of such complexity that it took in some of Britain's leading galleries, collectors and experts, a court was told yesterday.

Sometimes styling himself professor, sometimes doctor, John Drewe allegedly created histories for non-existent works by famous modern artists, then paid a skilled painter £250 a time to create them. The court was told that John Myatt, a struggling artist, copied the styles of artists such as Ben

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Nicholson, Marc Chagall, Graham Sutherland and Alberto Giacometti, and that one of his creations fetched a price of more than £100,000.

Using old wood to make the frames and carefully-forged artists' signatures to perfect the paintings, Mr Drewe created elaborate stories to lure unknowing acquaintances to sell the paintings to galleries and collectors. Dealers they approached included Sotheby's

and Christie's, Southwark Crown Court was told.

While Mr Drewe, 50, of Reigate, Surrey, was driven primarily by a desire for money, his efforts over a 10-year-period suggested "an intellectual delight in fooling people", said John Bevan, QC, for the prosecution. His actions also showed contempt for the entire art world, the archives of which had been severely damaged. "He was a consummate and expert operator in his chosen field," Mr Bevan said.

At the heart of the case, the court was told, was Mr Drewe's ability to create histories or "provenances" which showed whether a painting was genuine. He even paid £20,000 to London's Tate Gallery, giving him access to museum archives which he was able to alter. "He realised that if words by famous 20th century artists could be faked and the archive material corrupted he could sell worthless paintings as originals for large sums of money," said Mr Bevan.

He went to great lengths to

create such provenances. At one point he entered into lengthy correspondence with an order of Roman Catholic priests - the Order of Servite Mary - to try and add to these histories. He also wrote to the families of the artists he was faking, hoping to glean extra information. They in turn became increasingly concerned as more and more faked paintings, attributed to their relations, flooded the market.

Described by the prosecution as clever, intelligent and articulate, Mr Drewe - whose real name is John Cockett - had chosen to create paintings by important but not universally-known artists. "We all can tell a beautiful Rembrandt just by looking at it. It is not so easy with modern art some of which .. verges on the downright peculiar," said Mr Bevan.

"As a nation we are fortunate to possess an invaluable collection of all kinds of works. The tiny minority are so well known that their authorship is unquestionable. The vast major-

ity, including paintings by modern artists, can, particularly if they are abstract works, be copied or imitated by a skilled painter."

The court was told that Mr Drewe then tricked other people into selling the faked works to collectors and galleries.

He told one "salesman" - who happened to be Jewish - that he was a member of a syndicate which was selling the paintings to fund a project one of using a false instrument and one of false accounting.

The court was told that the artist, John Myatt, 53, from Staffordshire, admitted his involvement.

The trial continues.

The salesman, Clive Bellman, saw it was a "worthy cause and was completely taken in".

Mr Drewe and an alleged accomplice, Daniel Stakes, 52, of Exeter, Devon, deny a charge of conspiracy to defraud. Mr Drewe also denies three charges of forgery, one of theft, one of using a false instrument and one of false accounting.

The court was told that the artist, John Myatt, 53, from Staffordshire, admitted his involvement.

The trial continues.

Water prices to be cut by 10 per cent

THE GOVERNMENT signalled the end of the fat-cat years for the privatised water companies yesterday by telling them to cut prices by 10 per cent and spend £2.5bn on environmental improvements.

Cleaner rivers, beaches and drinking water must all be achieved while prices to the consumer are being cut, the companies were told by John Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, and his deputy Michael Meacher, who set the target as a framework for the companies' investment programmes in the first five years of the new millennium.

Meeting both elements would mean an end to the "bonanza" of directors' pay and shareholder dividends seen in recent years, they said, which had come about because water prices had been set too high.

The water companies said they could "face difficulties" in combining a price cut with increased investment, and share prices fell on the announcement.

The proposed programme of accelerated sewage treatment schemes, tighter drinking and bathing water standards and protection for a long list of

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

wildlife sites threatened by sewage or water abstraction delighted environmental groups.

Mr Prescott said the 1988 water privatisation by the Tories had given away public assets and created ideal conditions for making a lot of money. "This is our first chance to get back some of that public investment. Most people will feel prices have been too high for five years and when connected to high profits, they want to see change." The Government believed a 10 per cent cut was possible, he said.

Spelling out the list of environmental improvements on which the Government was insisting, Mr Meacher said the discharge of raw sewage into the sea would be completely stopped. This would improve the quality of bathing water quality, enabling many more British beaches to meet the European Union's Blue Flag standard.

The spreading of untreated sewage sludge on land would be halted, and lead levels in drinking water would be cut by a massive programme of replacing old pipes. Added protection would also be given to sites of special scientific interest.

The Government's announcement came in the form of official guidance to the water regulator, Ian Byatt, who is reviewing prices for the period 2000-2005. Mr Prescott said he had miscalculated when setting prices for the current five-year period, in 1994, allowing them to be too high.

Responding to the announcement, Brian Duckworth, chairman of Severn-Trent Water and also of the industry's umbrella body, Water UK, said: "We're happy to increase the pace of environmental improvement, but there's a cost attached. If a price cut hits our ability to invest, then we could face difficulties."

The companies were given a sharp warning by Lord De Ramsey, chairman of the Environment Agency, which will oversee the programme. He said: "We will make sure that the full programme of improvements is delivered by the companies by 2005. Slippage will not be acceptable."

Shares fall, page 18



The River Itchen at Eastleigh in Hampshire is one of the finest salmon chalk streams in the country, but there are concerns about the impact that raised levels of ammonia from sewage treatment works are having on the river's salmon population. John Voss

Convicted paedophiles 'must disclose overseas travel plans'

BY JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

CONVICTED paedophiles will have to notify the police whenever they travel abroad and sex offenders visiting Britain will have to tell the authorities where they are staying, under plans being considered by the Home Office.

The issue of sex offenders who travel abroad was highlighted by the disclosure yesterday that a British-born paedophile who emigrated to Australia 27 years ago is being deported back to Britain.

The 57-year-old man, a former computer salesman in the state of Victoria, has been convicted of 36 sex offences against children in Australia. He now faces deportation and could be sent to Britain within weeks.

But under current British law, the man, known only as VZD for legal reasons, cannot be added to the new Sex Offenders' Register, which enables the authorities to keep track of them.

of concerns being raised by the police and others."

The case of VZD echoes that of the paedophiles Robert Oliver and Sidney Cooke, members of a violent sex gang who were convicted under old legislation. Like them, he will not be covered by current sex offenders' legislation and will not be required to register or be supervised by the probation service.

The paedophile was first jailed in 1991 for attacks on two boys. He was given a six-year sentence, but served only two years and two months after agreeing to attend a special course to rehabilitate sex offenders. On the last day of the course, he admitted abusing a female relative, first when she was aged seven, for four years. Last year he was jailed for seven years.

Earlier this year, VZD was arrested after early release from prison to face a deportation hearing. The Home Office spokesman said: "We are looking at making these possible changes in law.

order because he failed to apply for citizenship and committed his first crime within 10 years of arriving in the country. He is being held in a detention centre awaiting deportation, unless he lodges an appeal within three weeks.

The move was greeted with dismay by campaigners against child abuse in this country. Wendy Copeland, chairwoman of the White Ribbon Campaign, said: "We've got enough paedophiles already in this country draining our resources."

A Home Office spokesman said the paedophile could become the subject of a new Sex Offender Order, which comes into force at the end of the year. The order can be placed on convicted sex offenders to restrict their movements, or impose other conditions in cases in which the police have evidence that they are likely to commit further crimes.

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'Observer' axes 17 journalists in cull

BY JANE ROBINS
Media Correspondent

ROGER ALTON, the new editor of the ailing *Observer*, told 17 staff yesterday that they were being made redundant. The job losses include some of the newspaper's key figures, such as the renowned columnist Sue Arnold and art critic William Feaver.

The newsroom has taken the brunt of the changes, being cut overnight by eight journalists. "I can't think of such a cull in Fleet Street ever," an insider said. "In the old days you might have seen a handful of people go out of a staff of 100, but this is a loss of one-fifth of all the journalists."

Journalists at the paper passed a union motion blaming the former editor, Will Hutton, for the drastic action, which comes after a collapse in circulation under his leadership.

Elderly and disabled 'can't rely on State'

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

THE ELDERLY and disabled will have to make more provision for themselves and rely less on the state, Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, said last night.

Mr Darling launched a crusade to "modernise" the welfare state and promised that the Government would start to unveil its long-awaited proposals in the next few weeks.

Mr Darling predicted that over the next 50 years, spending on health and education would rise in line with the nation's prosperity.

"As people make more provision for themselves, the share of welfare spend born by the state in the form of benefits is likely to fall over the same period," he said.

While he promised to ensure

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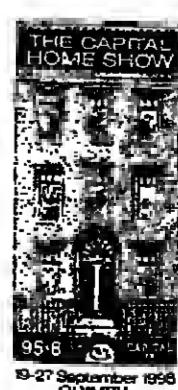
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Beating of children to be outlawed

THE LAW is to be changed making it illegal for parents to beat their children, after a landmark European court judgement yesterday in favour of a boy who was caned by his stepfather.

Judges at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg ruled that British law, under which the stepfather was initially acquitted, failed to protect the basic rights of the boy, who was nine at the time of the caning.

"Child A", who cannot be named for legal reasons, was awarded £10,000 in damages plus £20,000 in legal costs. But the ruling also means that ministers will have to amend the law to take account of the judgement. A consultation paper is expected by Christmas and one likely option is that hitting children with a stick or other object will be made illegal.

The case of Child A arose in 1993 when the boy was examined by a paediatrician who found a number of bruises apparently caused by beatings with a garden cane.

The child's stepfather was charged with causing him actual bodily harm and at the subsequent trial, in 1994, did not dispute caning the boy but argued that this amounted to "reasonable" punishment. The jury acquitted the stepfather on a majority verdict, but Child A, backed by his natural father, tested the law against the European Convention on Human Rights, of which the UK is a signatory.

In Strasbourg yesterday judges ruled that the treatment of Child A, who is now 14, was severe enough to reach the level prohibited by Article 3 of the Convention which states that "no one shall be subjected

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
IN BRUSSELS

to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

The court ruled that English law, under which the prosecution must prove that an assault on a child is beyond the limits of reasonable punishment, did not provide sufficient protection.

The ruling, hailed by the boy's lawyers as "one of the biggest changes in child protection law for 130 years" un-

William Hague: Ruling takes nanny state too far

mediately provoked a political row, with the Conservative Party leader, William Hague, claiming that it takes "the nanny state too far".

Meanwhile, pressure groups stepped up calls for a ban on smacking which would bring the UK into line with eight other European countries. Anything less would produce confusion and result in contradictions, they argued.

While promising to change the law, the Government moved swiftly to distance itself from calls for an all-out ban on

smacking in the home. Paul Boateng, the Health minister, said: "Any case of serious violence against a child, and especially in this instance, [where] a young boy was being repeatedly and severely beaten at home, would horrify parents. There is no excuse for such behaviour and it is right and proper to condemn it."

"But this is nothing to do with the issue of smacking. The overwhelming majority of parents know the difference between smacking and beating."

But Mr Hague argued: "We have taken the nanny state too far when we have to have court rulings about what people can do with their own children in their own home on things like this."

"It's up to parents whether they want to smack their children. They don't need a European judge to tell them whether or not they're allowed to do that," he said.

Michael Gardner, litigation partner for Morgan Bruce, the legal firm that represented the boy, said: "I am delighted for Child A who fought this case not only on behalf of himself but to help other children."

"This is one of the biggest changes in child protection law for 130 years. We await the government legislation with interest—it is likely they will consider banning implements altogether."

Janet Convery, co-ordinator of the forum on children and violence at the National Children's Bureau, said: "We welcome the judgement and hope that the Government will take the opportunity to ban physical punishment and give children the same legal protection that adults have."



Pupils from St Peter and St Paul's Roman Catholic Primary School in South Shields view 'The Hand' by the artist David Gross. The 12ft structure, featuring a propeller in the palm of the hand and based on a design by the pupils, stands on the banks of the river Tyne and is meant to be a symbolic greeting to ships using the river. Raoul Dixon

Freed nurse could be home 'in days'

BY CHRIS HAMILTON

A BRITISH nurse cleared of murdering her unfaithful husband after she shot him dead may be home from America "in days", her lawyer said yesterday.

Helen Cummings, 33, was found not guilty of the second-degree murder of her husband, Tyler Cummings, after a Florida jury decided she acted in self-defence. She is eight-and-a-half months pregnant with the couple's child.

Warren Olds, her lawyer, said Mrs Cummings was so desperate to go home to Preston, Lancashire, to see her one-year-old son that she may fly despite being near full term.

He said: "As far as I'm aware the pregnancy does not stop her from flying if she wants to. I don't know if she'll be back by the weekend but it could be within days."

The maternity nurse admitted killing her husband and had been facing life imprisonment if found guilty but the jury unanimously cleared her on the ninth day of her trial in Florida.

The court heard how she thought her husband would kill her after she confronted him with pictures of him naked with another woman.

The outcome was received with relief by her mother, Marion Billington, in Preston where she is looking after her daughter's son, Terry.

Mrs Billington said: "I have not spoken to Helen long enough to know what her plans are. She just cried, she wants to get back to see Terry and he wants to see her."

"It is the right decision, she had suffered enough."

During the trial Mrs Cummings told the court how she feared for her life and had even contemplated suicide when she shot her husband at their home in Fort Lauderdale on 14 February.

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Setback for Ashdown on school trusts

PADDY ASHDOWN suffered an embarrassing defeat yesterday when party activists overwhelmingly voted against key proposals to shift power over schools to parents from local councillors, many of whom are Liberal Democrats.

But immediately after the defeat, Mr Ashdown vowed to continue to press for the controversial introduction of Neighbourhood School Trusts, which would consist of community-based groups such as parish councils.

As part of his campaign to change the education structure, he has asked Liverpool city council, which has a Liberal Democrat majority, to set up the independent trusts on a trial basis.

"The vote was disappointing. But we are determined to take this forward and stand by the broad principle with a longer campaign of consultation," he said.

Doo Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, who drew up the proposals, said the policy was "far from dead".

"The underpinning principle of the trusts are the underpinning principle of Liberal

EDUCATION
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Correspondent

pect from the education service. Communities must be at the centre of everything we do."

Many party activists argued, however, that the proposals echoed the Conservative government's policy of allowing schools to opt out of local education authority control.

Mary Wane, from Westmorland and Lonsdale, was given rapturous applause when she warned against the changes.

"Please do not add any further disruption to our schools system by trying to impose a measure that is neither necessary nor desirable," she said.

Mrs Wane was scornful of suggestions that a vast "untapped reservoir" of people existed, just waiting to get involved, and argued that local communities were already involved in local schools in areas like hers.

Peter Downes, from Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, said the general reaction to the proposals had been to think: "What a terrible idea!"

And he added: "My fear is that it is so blatantly absurd that it will undermine our credibility and distract attention away from our other proposals."

Summing up the debate, Mr Foster told the conference that the trusts would offer communities the opportunity to get involved in education in their area at a time when the present system was failing.

"Some people have been saying that the trusts would be opting out all over again. Well it is not," he said.

"We want local authorities to set out what each and every citizen should be entitled to ex-



Lib Dem education spokesman Don Foster with Joanna Wallace, 3, and Daniel Miller, 4, at Tarnerland Nursery School, Brighton John Vos

Anti-terror measures 'shocking'

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS yesterday attacked the Government's emergency anti-terror legislation as "shocking" despite MPs supporting it in a vote in the Commons earlier this month.

NORTHERN IRELAND
BY SARAH SCHAEFER

in support of the emergency motion at the party's conference, denied there had been a policy change, stressing that the vote reaffirmed the Liberal Democrats' commitment to replace the existing Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Act with a comprehensive legislative package.

"It is irresponsible of the Tories to suggest otherwise," he said. The draconian measures, which were passed amid the terrorist atrocities of Omagh, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, make it easier to secure convictions of proscribed members of terrorist organisations, such as the Real IRA, by allowing the evidence of senior police officers to be submitted to courts.

It also makes it a criminal offence to conspire to commit a criminal act abroad. Mr O'Keeffe, the Ulster-born son of Estonian refugees who fled Stalin's troops in the Second World War, said he spent eight years fighting for the independence of Estonia by attending demonstrations against the Soviet regime in Britain, a protest which would be illegal under the Bill.

He said that the parlia-

mentary party had voted for the legislation because it was needed to move forward the peace process in Northern Ireland.

However, he attacked the clauses of the Act dealing with the international dimension, saying: "We did the right thing and we made it clear that we opposed the clauses to combat international terrorism. We will not be beholden to the media circus of Tony Blair."

Disarmament move fails

DEFENCE
BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

cluding nuclear weapons, following the Government's strategic defence review. This motion would pre-empt that review. It is not the way to make policy on an issue of such importance. The amendment should be rejected," he said.

Mr Campbell earlier told the conference the Liberal Democrats would carry out their own review of defence policy, in-

ject the unilateralist motion submitted by 42 representatives and the constituencies of Camberville and Peckham, and Oxford West and Abingdon.

"This is a very dangerous time to move away from trying to establish an international structure of order. I plead with Liberal Democrats to fight against this amendment," she said.

The conference gave its backing to the policy for "retaining a minimum nuclear deterrent as a weapon of last resort for the foreseeable future".

Scarlet vision steps lightly into view

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

Don Foster had come up with a policy proposal to replace education authorities with "neighbourhood schools trusts", which was supposed to vest "power in the people".

Sadly, the leadership had forgotten that education is the heartbeat of delegates. If they are not councillors they are invariably headmasters, teachers or education officers. Many have a vested interest in backing the National Union of Teachers against the likes of Chris Woodhead, who faced angry delegations at a packed fringe meeting the night before.

Now that the party has 46 MPs there are backbenchers as well as party spokesmen. So we had Jackie Ballard, the fierce and feisty MP for Taunton, speaking trenchantly against her own hierarchy. Mr Foster and Mr Ashdown, sitting glumly on the platform, both found it difficult to react. Shakes of their heads and the withholding of applause indicated that they were less than pleased.

Well, at least it shows that the party's spin doctors are working their seductive magic as they spread their message that "one more heave and we really can make it".

Anyway, the leadership didn't make it yesterday and the peasants won the vote on a show of hands. A good day for party democracy if not for Liberal Democracy.

CONFERENCE BRIEFS

Call for ban on gene-altered food

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS yesterday called for a five-year ban on genetically modified (GM) food to allow more research into its impact on the environment.

The conference proposed an EU-wide moratorium and demanded clearer labelling of GM products. Among other environmental measures, delegates urged an Environmental Responsibility Act, requiring the inclusion of a "green chapter" in the Budget.

Sex education needs a boost

SEX EDUCATION in schools should be taken more seriously to prevent unwanted teenage pregnancies, a former biology teacher and Liberal Democrat activist said yesterday.

Joan Walmsley, from Congleton, Cheshire, raised a laugh at the conference when she said pupils were being taught about sex by "pretty mechanical" teachers who have no formal training.

Today's business

- Emergency motions on speeding up the process of dealing with asylum seekers; and the release from prison of Ruth Sandberg, detained in Italy for an alleged drug offence.
- Debate on home affairs policy, including an extra 6,000 police.
- A debate criticising the Government's decision to restrict legal aid.
- Keynote address by Paddy Ashdown.
- Conference closes

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University students tucking in to breakfast at the Merrion Thistle Hotel in Leeds

Doctors want time limit on appointments

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

PATIENTS SHOULD not be forced to wait longer than seven days to see their family doctor, or two weeks to see a consultant about an urgent illness, doctors' leaders said yesterday.

Doctors from Britain's royal medical colleges and doctors representing the British Medical Association demanded that the Department of Health adopt four new waiting list targets to "empower patients".

The Government has pledged to bring down the waiting list by 100,000 during this Parliament.

But Professor Sir Norman Browne, chairman of the Joint Consultants Committee, said the real waiting list, and the measure of the efficiency of the NHS, should be the number of patients who have not been seen within appropriate time limits.

"The important thing we need to know is the number of patients we fail," he said.

Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, has written to Sir Norman, saying that the Government "fully recognises the importance of ensuring that decisions about treatment for patients on NHS waiting lists are on the basis of clinical need".

The committee's targets say that a wait for a non-urgent appointment with a GP should never be longer than seven days. At present the situation is "very variable" across the country, Sir Norman said.

IN BRIEF

Gladiator trial jury sent home
THE JURY in the trial of Michael Ahearne, the *Gladiators* star "Warrior", who is accused of acting as a go-between for a senior detective and a gangland boss, was sent home until this morning. Mr Ahearne and two others deny corruption and perverting the course of justice.

Northern Ireland killers freed
THREE MEN convicted of double murders were among five life-sentence prisoners freed from jail in Northern Ireland yesterday under the Good Friday Agreement early release scheme. Two were loyalists and a third from the IRA.

Doctor took biopsy by hand
A GYNAECOLOGIST accused of serious professional misconduct yesterday admitted pulling a sample from a patient's tumour with his hands. Consultant Rodney Ledward, 59, denies 25 misdemeanours.

Children urged to exercise
CHILDREN AND young people need to exercise for one hour a day to enjoy better physical and mental health, the Health Education Authority said in a report yesterday. Regular exercise also enhances self-esteem.

Lottery show 'screened too early'
THE BBC's *National Lottery Big Ticket* encouraged young people to gamble illegally, the Broadcasting Standards Commission said yesterday. The watchdog said it should not have been screened at 7pm when children were watching.

MILES KINGTON

'Psychologists now believe that a person cursed with a name like Somerset Maugham or Kingsley Amis has to escape into writing'

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 2 →

Students check in at four-star hotel

STUDENTS ARRIVING for their first taste of academic life in Leeds are eschewing the rigours of shared digs and instead have found themselves booked into en-suite rooms in one of the city's plusher four-star hotels.

Thirty undergraduates from the University of Leeds are enjoying satellite television, crisp linen and a choice of full English breakfast or freshly baked croissants at the Merrion Thistle Hotel.

The students have been forced to live in the £100-a-night hotel because contractors have not finished work on their new accommodation. The university has negotiated a cut-price deal with the hotel, which is letting one-third of its rooms to students until further notice.

The undergraduates have taken readily to 24-hour room service and free in-house movies; one student even

BY GARY FINN
charged a taxi to the university when late for lectures. There are also the all-important tea and coffee-making facilities and a trouser press so students can steer clear of ironing.

The move is the latest measure to cope with burgeoning student numbers. Previous years have seen universities and colleges around the country turning sports halls into soup kitchens with camp-beds, doubling up single rooms with bunk beds and booking students into empty council houses or hostels.

The hotel bill will be paid by the building company that is still renovating their rooms.

A Leeds University spokeswoman said: "They were told they would be staying in the hotel shortly after arriving at the Springfield Mount annexe of the Charles Morris hall of

residence. We are very, very disappointed that the contractors did not fulfil the terms of their contract and we have made our position very clear."

The university decided to put the students into the hotel "rather than having them spread across the city in bed and breakfasts with all the difficulties in communicating with them and bearing in mind some parents may not have looked too kindly on us if we put their sons and daughters in some run-down seedy place".

The move has gone down well with most of the students. Nick Woodrow, 18, from Buckinghamshire, who is studying civil engineering, said: "We have been quiet so far but I don't think the staff are very happy — in fact I think some are a bit put out because they are already paying for our education. The TV facilities are excellent and it's great to sit up

all night and watch the movies. It's better than home."

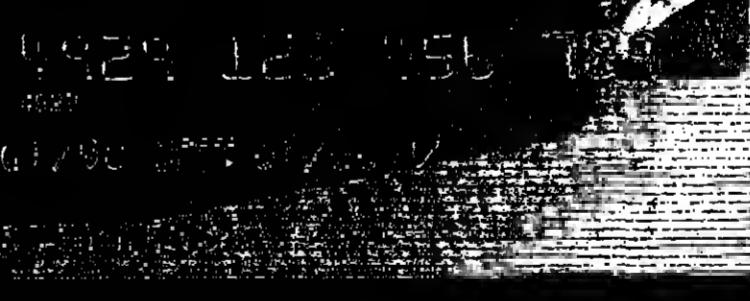
Hannah Stringer, 18, from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, a first-year sports science and physiology student, said: "We don't really want to be seen as losing students just taking another freebie — but I could stay here all the time."

Still, there seems to be no pleasing some people. Simon Mudd, 18, a chemistry student from Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, said: "To be honest it's a bit of a hassle having to walk to and from the university. If we were in the halls, we would be on campus and able to walk straight into lectures."

"I'm not really complaining, though, because we are getting free food on a morning and I can recommend the full English breakfast. Being a first-year, though, it means I'm missing out on mingling with the rest of the freshers in the halls."

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EASTERN

Presidential crisis: Congress prepares for impeachment hearing as Bill Clinton wins new friends in the ghettos Republicans reject talk of early deal

SENIOR REPUBLICANS rejected an early deal with President Clinton to pre-empt impeachment hearings in the Monica Lewinsky affair yesterday, but allowed that he should have a chance to put his case before a final decision was taken.

The rebuff came amid pledges from both sides to use the Watergate impeachment hearings as a model for further action and strong words from

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

a succession of elder statesmen blaming Mr Clinton for diminishing the office of president.

Signalling that overtures from the White House had so far fallen on deaf ears, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, said that the House had to finish its own inquiries before

any decision was made.

"For anybody to talk about doing anything before we finish the investigative process simply puts the cart before the horse," he said. "There's an awful lot of evidence that hasn't been gathered yet."

The other evidence relates to the continuing investigations being conducted by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, into the Whitewater land

deal in Arkansas and two earlier cases relating to the Clinton White House — the dismissal of the travel office staff (Travelgate) and the transfer to the White House of confidential FBI files (Fleigate).

But Mr Gingrich did hold out the prospect of a hearing for Mr Clinton before the judiciary committee, conceding: "The President has not had an opportunity to present his case."

Mr Gingrich was reporting on a meeting of leaders of the House and its judiciary committee held to discuss a possible timetable for instituting impeachment hearings.

While one of the stated purposes of yesterday's meeting was also to restore a spirit of "bipartisanship", the two sides emerged as far apart as ever: The two senior Democrats at the meeting — the House minority

leader, Dick Gephardt, and the senior Democrat on the judiciary committee, John Conyers — refused to join Mr Gingrich's briefing and held a separate press conference to lambaste their Republican colleagues for — as they saw it — needlessly trying to draw out the process and not heading "Democrats' strictures about the release of the Lewinsky documents.

Mr Gephardt said that he

and Mr Conyers had requested that the current judiciary committee investigation could and should be concluded "in the next 30 days or so". The committee meets again today when it will consider how many more of the documents — another 16 boxes — in the Lewinsky investigation should be made public.

A number of elder statesmen, meanwhile, weighed into the discussion about the affair

The former president George Bush told an interviewer that while the presidency was "bigger than one person", he feared the office had been damaged.

The former president Jimmy Carter said he had "deplored and been deeply embarrassed about" Mr Clinton's relationship with Ms Lewinsky. He forecast that the Senate would not produce the two-thirds majority necessary for impeachment.

Blacks in LA plan protest for Clinton

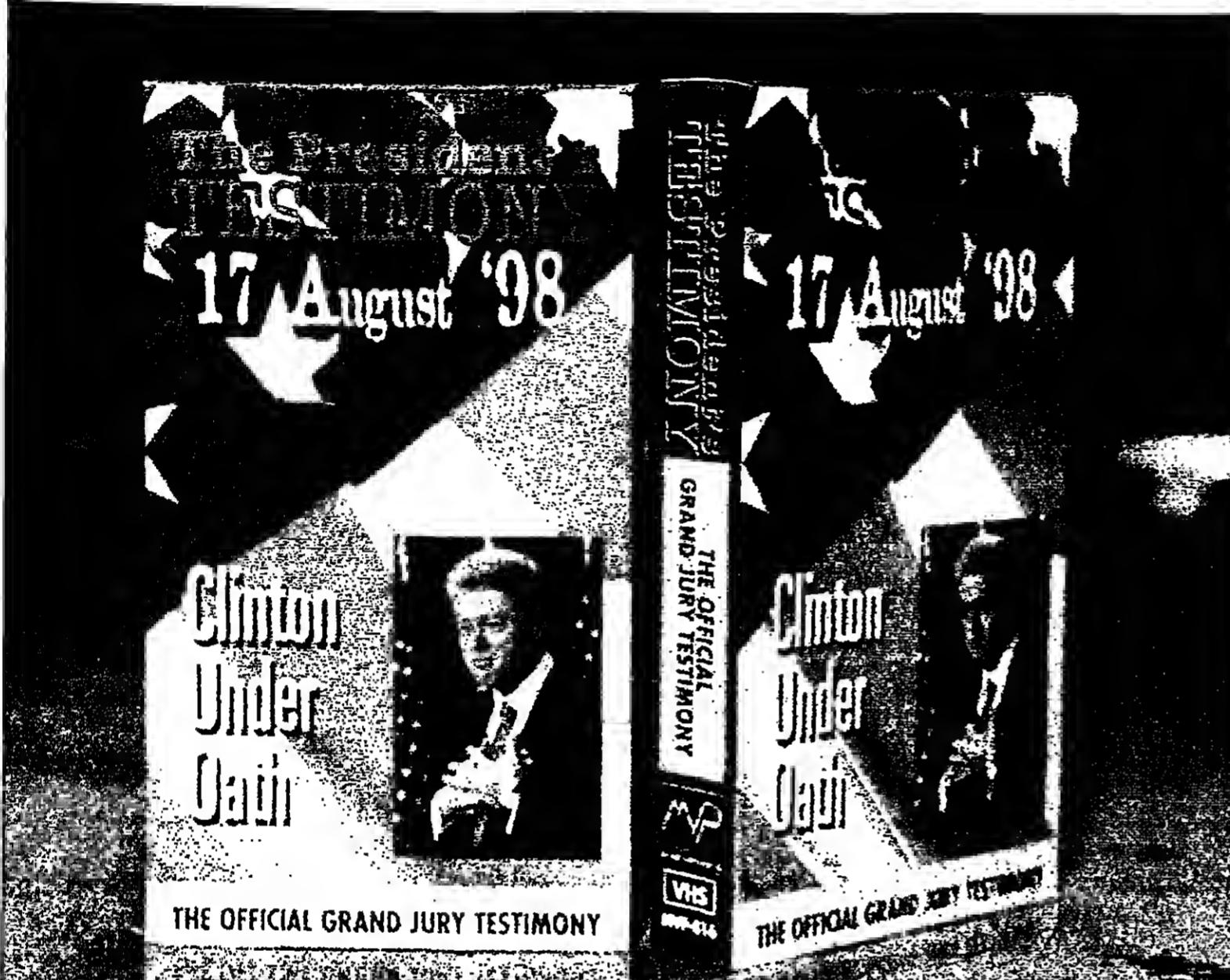
BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

the Los Angeles chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, this is because any wrongdoing is clearly outweighed by the vehemence of the backlash against him.

"What we're seeing is the ideology of a dominant culture that wants to get you at all costs," she said. "We've had similar experiences — how they keep after you until they find your weak point. This is oppressive pressure that we can relate to," she said.

Mr Clinton also enjoys strong support among minority groups for his policies — surprising since he pushed through deep cuts in welfare before his 1996 re-election. "We recognise his efforts to stand up for social programmes, education and health in spite of the welfare reforms," Dr Washington added.

If Mr Clinton can keep minorities on his side and persuade them to turn out to vote in November, it could also sway voters among his fellow Democrats that they are in for a scandal-driven rout. "We are the most vocal, some would say the noisiest, ethnic group," said Dr Mays. "We have the tradition of civil rights and we know better than anyone how to sing 'We Shall Overcome'."



Copies of the video 'The President's Testimony' ready for shipment from California

JUST WHEN Bill Clinton might have thought he was running out of friends, the black community of Los Angeles — at the epicentre of rioting against authority in 1992 — has offered to stage a rally of support when he files into town for a fundraising dinner this weekend.

Minority groups, and blacks in particular, have always been an important constituency for Mr Clinton. Throughout the Monica Lewinsky scandal, blacks have consistently polled as the group most supportive of the embattled President — partly because they see parallels between their own treatment at the hands of the police and judiciary and Ken Starr's dogged pursuit of the President.

And the city that exploded in fury at the police beating of Rodney King and then chose to acquit OJ Simpson because the jury did not trust the police evidence, wants to support him.

James Mays, a black community leader in Watts, south central Los Angeles, said: "We want him to have a spontaneous response from the broad mosaic of residents in South Central, not just blacks but Hispanics, Asians and many others. We want him to look at the young people and adults who really believe in him and let him know he is moving in the right direction."

Community action has

IN BRIEF

Hurricane heads for Florida

UP TO 100,000 people were ordered to begin evacuating the exposed Florida Keys island chain in advance of a possible strike by Hurricane Georges. South Florida was put under a hurricane watch as the deadly storm emerged into open water between Haiti and eastern Cuba. The state governor, Lawton Chiles, declared an emergency in central and southern Florida, allowing the state to use the National Guard, lift tolls along evacuation routes and buy emergency supplies.

Leaders discuss Kashmir

THE PRIME ministers of India and Pakistan met yesterday amid international pressure to settle their differences over Kashmir, a dispute that turned ominous since both countries carried out nuclear tests last May. The meeting between Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif and India's Atal Bihari Vajpeyi was the second since their nuclear tests drew international condemnation and increased pressure for both sides to sign the nuclear test ban treaty.

Slovakia campaign ends

SLOVAKIA'S ELECTION campaign officially ended, leaving a two-day cooling off period before polls. Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar's Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), was put at 25 per cent in the opinion polls. The four opposition parties have all said they would never work with Mr Mečiar.

Malaysia bans demonstrations

MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES questioned the wife of the country's anti-government protest leader and banned demonstrations across the nation. About 1,000 supporters of the sacked finance minister, Anwar Ibrahim, briefly gathered outside a Kuala Lumpur courthouse when rumours spread that he might be brought there in his first public appearance since his arrest three days ago.

Commonwealth hope for Nigeria

THE COMMONWEALTH will consider readmitting Nigeria after it holds elections next year, said Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the secretary-general. It would be difficult to continue to exclude the African state if elections produced a "credible, democratic" government, he said, after meeting Nigeria's new leader, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, in London.

Kohl hints at 'grand coalition' after poll

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

ALMOST INSEPARABLE in the polls, the visible distinctions between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his challenger faded further yesterday as Germans were confronted with the prospect of a "grand coalition" after this Sunday's vote.

In a televised interview last night, Mr Kohl conceded for the first time that the two biggest parties might be condemned to govern together. "I consider a grand coalition to be possible in principle, because democrats have to be able to form coalitions with each other," the Chancellor said.

In the glacial world of German politics, this admission of political reality was treated as a sensation. Christian Democrat spin doctors scrambled to issue "clarifications", urging editors to take a closer look at the rest of the interview, particularly the part where Mr Kohl declares: "I will not be the leader of a grand coalition."

Until now, the Chancellor's

strategy consisted of presenting Sunday's elections as a choice between himself, or a coalition of Social Democrats and Greens, Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat challenger; had always denied that He had shown willingness to deal with anyone but the post-Communists of eastern Germany. In a television interview on Monday night, he even suggested he was prepared to play second fiddle in a government led by Christian Democrats.

With the polls consistently predicting an extremely close race, a marriage of convenience has always been regarded as one of the most possible outcomes of Sunday's vote. Never has an opposition party come to power in elections in post-war Germany. Willy Brandt became the first Social Democrat chancellor in 1969 after serving three years

as junior partner to the Christian Democrats.

With such a precedent, Mr Kohl is understandably not keen to repeat the experience. After the last "grand coalition", the Christian Democrats were out of power for 13 years.

But this time the prospect of such a government is seen as the logical outcome of the blurring of the differences between the two great parties. After six months of campaigning, the voters can be excused for feeling a little confused.

With Chancellor Kohl, at least they know where they stand. After 16 years of "stability and peace", the incumbent is promising four more. At the hustings, Mr Kohl runs through his achievements, drops a few promises about trying to bring down unemployment and reform taxation and plays on his image as the trusted pilot in stormy seas.

The Social Democrats, on the other hand, speak with

forked tongues. Leftists, such as the party chairman Oskar Lafontaine, hark back to the values of traditional socialism: safe jobs, safe pensions and lots of child benefits.

This is the mantra that Mr Schröder adopted for his rallies, whilst his real message, about the need for "structural reforms" in the welfare state and jobs market, is being delivered surreptitiously.

The differences between the Kohl product and the Schröder vision boil down to style. Mr Schröder, 54, plays pop and jazz at his rallies, while Mr Kohl's crowds are warmed up by oompah bands.

The real choice is between change, offered by Mr Schröder with a nudge and a wink, and permanence, which the Chancellor has written all over him. That much Germans understand, but how those contradictions could be resolved in a joint government, nobody can fathom.



Helmut Kohl is made up for an interview yesterday

Desperate Chancellor enlists his wife's support

BY IMRE KARACS

CHANCELLOR HELMUT Kohl is mobilising every potential voter in the last days of the German general election campaign. Celebrities have been wheeled out, athletes pressured for endorsements, and now even the First Lady is coming to the aid of the party with a media-blitz.

Whatever German voters might be thinking about the wisdom of choosing a 68-year-old leader for another term, Mrs Kohl is certain that retirement is not on the cards.

"My husband as a pensioner? Inconceivable," she told *Zeit-Magazin* in one of a series

of interviews that hit the newsstands yesterday. "He has shaped history, brought progress to the country and Europe and for good reasons would like to exercise further influence."

The woman behind Europe's most powerful man has no fear of the family fish tank being

thrown out of the Chancellery in the near future. "He is a political long-distance runner," Mrs Kohl explains. "He will win on the final bend."

Hannelore Kohl, a fluent speaker of English and French, is normally happy to play the *Hausfrau* and takes pains to maintain a low political profile.

She is also said to be a very private person. Yet here she is indulging in a bit of gossip about her husband's favourite dishes, and reminiscing about the time the Gorbačevs popped in for dinner.

Could she, wonder the Social Democrats, be the last throw of the re-elect Kohl campaign?



A HALF PRICE KITCHEN.
AND THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS.

Lesotho counts cost of intervention

BY ED O'LOUGHLIN
in Maseru

MASERU'S MAIN tourist office, three kilometres from the border with the Orange Free State, is the first thing visitors encounter on the way from South Africa. Built in the shape of a giant Basotho hat - a conical woven sombrero with a little wicker bobble on top - the thatched building is the town's most distinctive landmark.

Or at least it was until the early hours of yesterday morning, when a mob burnt it down. The savage rage that ripped the heart out of Maseru, capital of the tiny mountain kingdom, caught most people by surprise, including it seems the South African government.

South Africa's first military intervention since the end of apartheid in 1994 has proved extremely costly. Its forces were mopping up stubborn resistance near a Lesotho military compound yesterday while soldiers from Botswana fanned out in the kingdom's gutted capital to stop looting.

Scattered gunfire and explosions still echoed through the capital and many shops were still smouldering from fires set on Tuesday, when 600 South African troops crossed the border to quell a military uprising.

The military command in Pretoria said eight South African soldiers had died in the operation, with 17 wounded. But a senior officer in Maseru said 10 were killed at the military compound in Tuesday's fighting.



An Indian businessman stands guard outside his shop as looting continues in Maseru, capital of Lesotho

When South Africa sent 600 troops across the border it was to political progress. By yesterday evening, the Lesotho Defence Force, minus 40 of its own dead, was still swapping mortar fire with the South Africans at Makoanyane army base on the outskirts of town. For the second day running

civilians were left to loot the city centre unhindered, while gangs of teenaged "opposition youths" set fire to public and private buildings along the Kingsway, hijacked cars and

tried to rob and kill passing journalists. Meanwhile Major Ben van Zyl of the South African National Defence Forces was assuring the media that the situation was in hand.

"Contingency measures are

in place to stabilise Lesotho," he said. "We will make sure that loss and damage of civilian property is minimal."

Built on a rocky hillside overlooking the city, the forecourt of the Lesotho Sun Hotel offered



An injured looter receives treatment in hospital

a panoramic view of Maseru's disgrace yesterday afternoon. Four hundred yards below, hundreds of Basotho civilians were swarming in and out of the Metro Cash and Carry and setting down in the car park to sort through their loot.

As the number of triumphant "affirmative shapers" gradually subsided, a puff of smoke appeared from beneath the building's tin roof, followed soon after by a burst of flame. Heavy black smoke spiralled off into the pall already hanging over the city.

The looters seemed unfazed by the machine gun fire and dull explosions that had erupted just around the corner on the main Kingsway street, where half a dozen South African armoured vehicles had appeared and were exchanging shots with unseen adversaries.

Fresh smoke began billowing from a building further

down the street. It seemed like a good time for Major van Zyl's contingency plans to be put into effect.

In the car park of the Queen Elizabeth II hospital on the Kingsway, Mr Pelele Letsosia watched volunteer Red Cross workers unload the third civilian corpse brought to the hospital in less than an hour, a young woman killed in crossfire near the Makoanyane barracks.

A respectable farmer and supporter of the opposition Basotho National Party, he was enraged at the destruction which, he said, South Africa had wreaked on the city.

Another man present, dressed in a working man's blue overalls, looked sadly over at the row of gutted shops across the road. "This is too sad," he said. "Where will the money come from to put all this back? Who will want to build again in Lesotho?"

Belgian outcry over refugee death on plane

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

AN INQUIRY has been launched into the death of a young west African refugee who was allegedly handcuffed and in leg irons when a cushion was used to silence her screams as 11 Belgian police attempted to deport her.

Semira Adamu, 20, was being forced onto a Sabena flight bound for Togo, in the authorities' fifth attempt to deport her, when she went into a coma.

Horrified passengers remonstrated with the captain after witnessing the brutal way in which she was said to be manhandled by police. Fearing a riot, the pilot refused to take off until she had been removed.

Demonstrators gathered outside the home of the Belgian Interior Minister Louis Tobback yesterday for a candlelit vigil after Ms Adamu's death was announced. Women's groups, opposition MPs and doctors demanded a moratorium on refugee expulsions. Anne Marie Lirzin, a Socialist Senator, said: "They have practically assassinated that young girl."

The Government said it was waiting for the results of an autopsy and two of the gendarmes who took part in the expulsion operation were being questioned. Ms Adamu was carried on to the plane in handcuffs and leg irons by a special police unit.

The tragedy brought to an abrupt end the Belgian authorities' fifth attempt to expel Ms Adamu who had featured in a documentary on national television three days prior to her death. Despite scepticism, even among refugee campaigners, about her story, she had become a symbol of the inhumanity of the country's refugee policy.

Ms Adamu died her native

Nigeria to escape what she claimed was an arranged marriage but her asylum application was repeatedly rejected. She had been held in a closed detention centre near Brussels airport since April.

The public prosecutors office confirmed yesterday that the "cushion method" of restraining refugees who resist expulsion is "habitual". Around 15,000 expulsions from Belgium take place each year.

Adamu: Victim of an "inhuman" policy

The case has highlighted the "fortress Europe" policy being applied by most EU governments and with particular determination by Belgium, where refugees can be held in prison-like detention camps for up to eight months.

Christine Flamand a lawyer at the Belgian Committee for Aid to Refugees said: "I ... was not convinced she had a case for asylum under the law as it stands. But just because someone does not qualify for refugee status as defined by the Geneva Convention does not mean we can forget about their rights and human dignity."

Eurocrats forced to retake exams

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

AN EXAMINATION taken by up to 30,000 would-be Eurocrats, including several thousand Britons, will have to be repeated because of widespread cheating and confusion.

The decision, which is a severe embarrassment to the European Commission, follows revelations that candidates conferred in examination halls, made calls on mobile phones from lavatories and leaked questions in advance.

Announcing the cancellation of the exam yesterday, the Commission estimated that the cost of staging the open competition sat at 38 centres throughout the continent, including north London and Edinburgh, amounted to 1.2 million ecus (about £900,000).

An investigation discovered that papers had been leaked in Italy, and confirmed reports of other problems at test centres including those at Heysel in Brussels and in Rome.

"The same people will have to start all over again," said the Commission's spokeswoman yesterday, "at least those who aren't disgusted with the whole process."

The Belgian media said applicants in Brussels had visited the lavatory en masse during the examinations, exchanged knowledge and used mobile phones to ring out for answers.

Near-anarchy in Rome was caused by the failure of the examiners to provide enough papers. Candidates, some of whom had seen their test papers, conferred freely while more were photocopied. Candidates in Milan were sent to the wrong address.



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17/10/98

Chinese
curb
migrant
births

Chinese to curb migrant births

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

FOR THE past decade, China's army of 100 million migrant rural workers has manned the production lines of a boom economy. But now it is being blamed for boosting output in an unwanted sector - illicit babies born outside the strict family planning rules.

Under a regulation announced yesterday, migrant workers must from 1 January 1993 carry a new certificate stating their "marriage and reproductive status", while employers and landlords of transient labourers will be expected to help to enforce birth control measures.

China's controversial family planning regime was introduced at a time when most of the population stayed put in home towns and villages, and was carefully monitored by the local contraceptive cadres. But economic reform and a relaxation of social controls brought the freedom for unemployed peasants to seek casual work in the cities. There they fall outside the strict pregnancy quota system.

In Shanghai, migrant workers make up less than an eighth of the permanent population, but the rate of unplanned births by transients is 12 times that of Shanghai residents. The state family planning minister, Zhang Weiqing, this week said uncontrolled births among the floating population had created "great pressure" on the government's birth-control efforts.

For rural families, migration to a city can be an opportunity to outwit regulations which, in most rural areas, limit couples to two, well-spaced children. Li Caiyun, for instance, came to Peking from Sichuan province in February with his wife who was three months pregnant, without permission. Back in his home village there would have been enormous pressure to have an abortion. In Peking, Mr Li worked on a building site until last month when the baby was due and it was too late for the authorities to act.

The new "regulation on family planning administration of the transient population" is designed to crack down on such migrant pregnancies, but implementation may prove difficult. The rule states that the local government where the migrant worker is temporarily living must take responsibility for implementing birth control restrictions. Couples found to have fabricated, sold or bought bogus birth-control certificates will be fined up to 1,000 yuan (£700), it said.



Kim Beazley with his daughter Rachel (left), wife Susie (second left), and daughters Jessica (centre) and Hannah Steve Holland/AP

Kim Beazley's big idea - spend, spend, spend

BY ROBERT MILLIKEN

in Brisbane

majority in the 148-seat House of Representatives.

It must win most of these in the populous eastern states of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, where the election will be decided. In Queensland, Labor holds only two of the state's 27 seats, which is why Mr Beazley is spending much campaign time in the "sunshine state", or the "deep north", rather than back home in Western Australia, where he is fighting to hold his own marginal constituency near Perth.

Then there is the problem of his own public image. Although he has been in politics for 18 years, Australians know little about him. Newspaper cartoons play on one aspect: his obesity. He is jolly and amiable, but questions have always been asked about whether he has sufficient "killer instinct" to be prime minister. Mr Howard tried to exploit this early in the campaign when he suggested

that Mr Beazley did not have the "ticker" (stamina) to be the country's leader.

Yet there are signs that he could defy the odds. In the last three opinion polls, Labor was ahead of the coalition by enough to win the election. In a television debate between the two leaders on 13 September, Mr Beazley easily outperformed the pedestrian Mr Howard.

Kim Beazley comes from a political dynasty in Perth. His father, Kim senior, an MP for 30 years, was very much Old Labor. He once famously thundered to a party conference: "When I joined the Labor Party, it contained the cream of the working class. But as I look about me now, all I see are the dregs of the middle class."

His son is very much middle-class, New Labor. Kim junior was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford in the 1970s, where he met Tony Blair. They have remained friends. Mr Blair wrote in a forward to a recent biography of Mr Beazley, by Peter Fitz-Simons: "Kim was always the

guy who stood out - in every way! Early on, even at university, he was streets ahead in terms of political savvy and intellect."

When Australian Labor reinvented itself under Bob Hawke and Paul Keating as a party of small government and the free market, Mr Beazley was part of the inner team. He became Minister for Defence, which he once said was the height of his ambitions.

When Mr Blair became Labour leader in Britain, he sought advice from his old Australian mate on the key question of how a social democratic party could ditch its old precepts and become a creature of a market-driven era.

The irony is that Mr Beazley is now doing his best to distance himself from that same revolution: "The free market does many things well," he told yesterday's party rally. "But not all the things that communities need done."

He has talked a lot in this campaign of "eating humble pie" and learning from mis-

takes of the past. In an attempt to win back old Labor supporters, he promised yesterday to spend almost A\$800 (£38m) on schools, hospitals, job schemes, roads and railways, especially in declining rural areas where unemployment is high.

About the only policy from the Keating era that Mr Beazley has promised to see through is a republic. He wants an Australian head of state to open the Olympics in Sydney in 2000.

Mr Beazley's support is growing among Australians, but whether it will gather enough momentum in the campaign's final 10 days to smash Mr Howard's record parliamentary majority is another matter.

The Labor leader told his biographer that when he visited Tony Blair at Chequers last year, Mr Blair said to him: "Kim, I cannot believe that I'm Prime Minister of Britain." If he wins in Australia on 3 October, Kim Beazley will have a similar feeling.

Bloody hate that knows no boundary

FRONTLINE
VLASENICA, BOSNIA

LIKE MOST young people of Vlasenica, a small town in eastern Bosnia, Ranka Kraljevic, is unapologetic about being a racist. "It's not that I hate Muslims," the de-mure 30-year-old Bosnian Serb explains with disarmingly candour. "It's just that I'll never trust them again."

Ranka has ambitions to work in the forestry industry but there is no work for her in Vlasenica, where unemployment runs at 50 per cent. She is a "Displaced Person" from the town of Olov, 30km away. About 80 Serb families made the move during Bosnia's vicious ethnic war between Muslims, Serbs and Croats. Olov is in Muslim-held territory these days. Conversely Vlasenica used to be a mostly Muslim town as well. Not one of the 8,000 Muslims who lived here until 1992 lives here now. As elsewhere in the Republic of Srpska, the Bosnian Serb entity, the mosque in the town centre has become a patch of grass.

Ranka's greatest fear is that Mrs Plavic and the moderates will let Vlasenica's expelled Muslims return. "If the Muslims came back here there would be another bloodbath," she says. "And how can I go back to my apartment in Olov? I wouldn't feel safe."

Attempts to rewrite the town's ethnic past are belied



by the make-up of the town council, 40 per cent of which is still controlled by the Muslims.

The councillors mostly live over the country's internal border in Tuzla, and come by bus, sometimes under an armed escort of Western peace-keepers to vote on behalf of a community that no longer exists.

Bosnian Serbs such as Ranka look at the West's defence of Vlasenica's municipal make-up and feel paranoid and cheated in equal measure. "You Westerners think all Serbs are bad but you don't know anything," she says.

Before the election earlier this month, Western organisers optimistically predicted that the Muslims would turn up by the busload to vote in their old municipalities, as they are entitled to, under the 1995 peace deal that ended the war. No one in Vlasenica is surprised that only a handful did so.

JAMES FERGUSON

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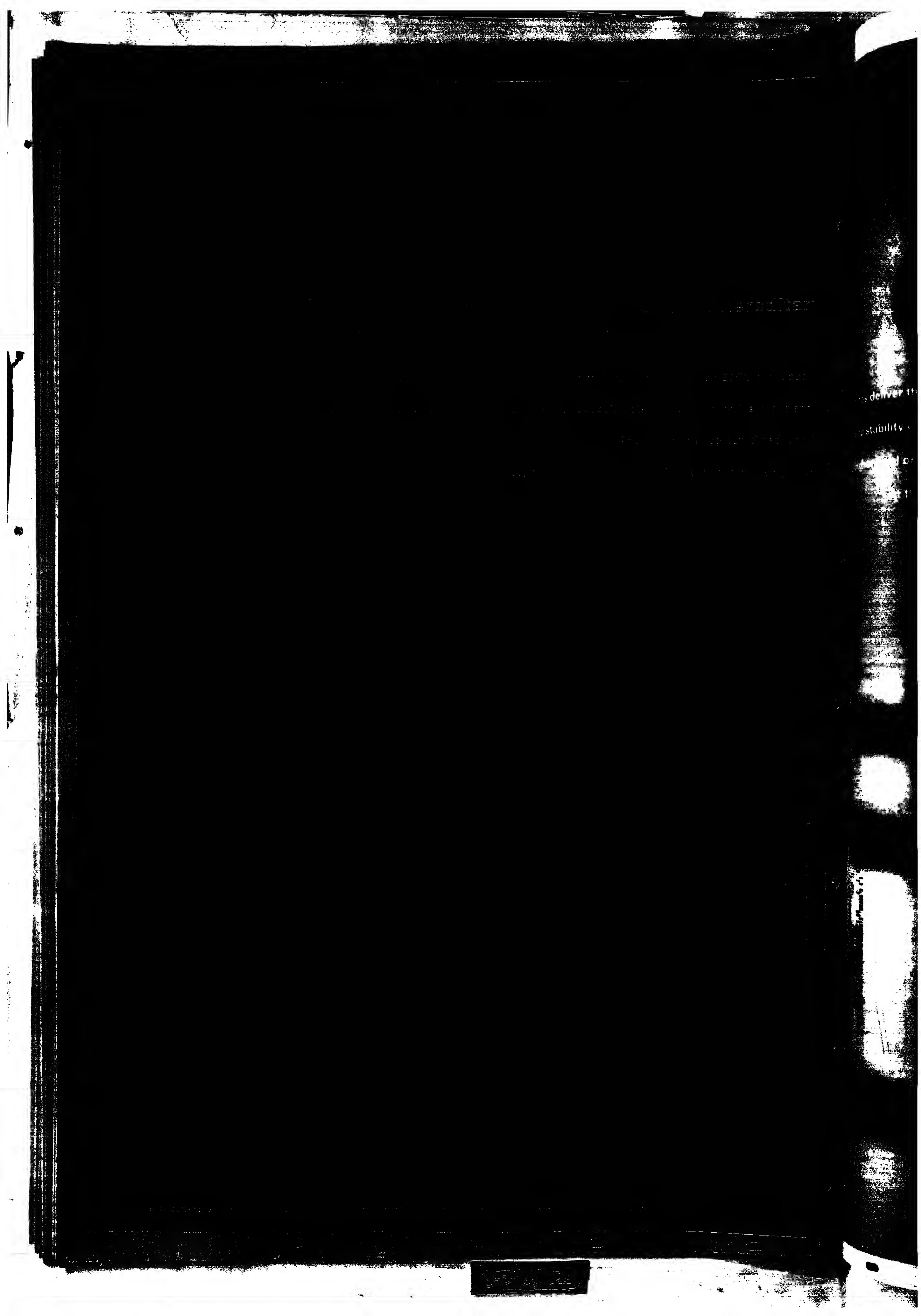
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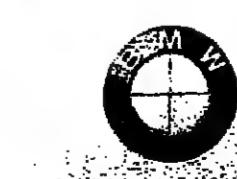
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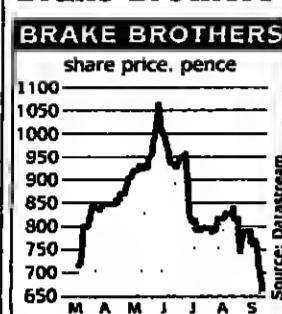
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

MFI chairman to retire next year
 DEREK HUNT, chairman of the struggling MFI Furniture retailer, yesterday announced his intention to retire from the company next year, though MFI said he was not bowing to pressure from institutional investors. "It has for some time been my plan to retire at the age of 60," Mr Hunt told shareholders at MFI's annual meeting, adding that he does not intend to seek re-election next year.

MFI has been criticised by investors for the company's poor performance, which has seen MFI's shares fall from 13p last year to just 3p, down 0.5p yesterday. In a trading statement MFI said UK retail sales in the first 21 weeks of the current financial year were 10 per cent below the same period last year.

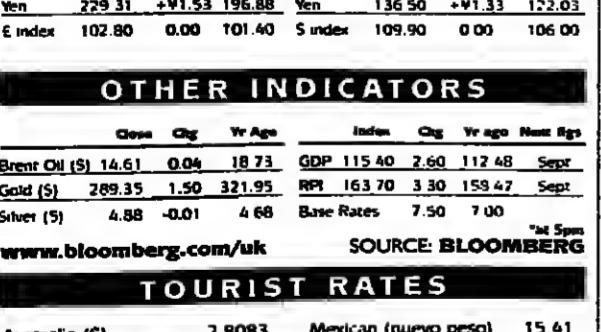
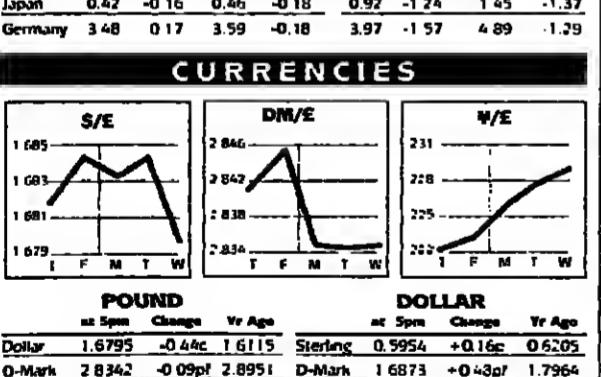
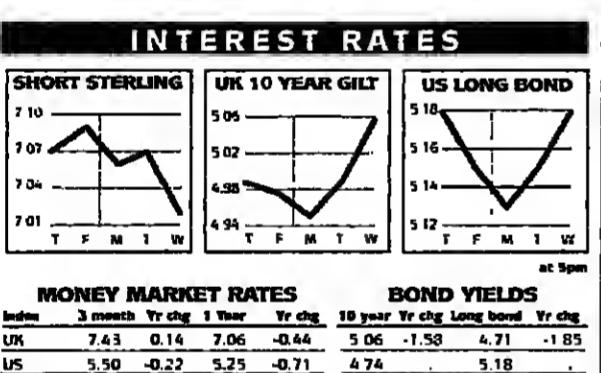
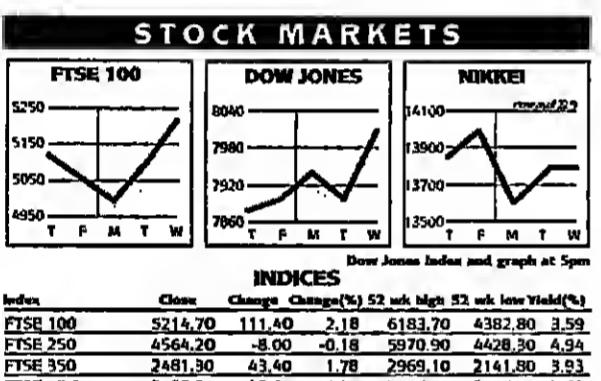
Brake Brothers shares plunge

 SHARE IN Brake Brothers, the market-leading food distributor, plunged yesterday by 15 per cent as the company said that catering was facing a "temporary slowdown". Over £48m was wiped from the company's value as its chairman, Frank Brake, said he was "cautious, although not pessimistic" about the full year. Shares dropped from 747.5p to 635.5p, in spite of a 27 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £13.7m. *Investment*, page 23

Liffe to go electronic earlier

LIFFE, LONDON'S international financial and futures exchange, has announced plans to bring forward electronic trading. Liffe, which is facing aggressive competition from other European futures exchanges, will start trading futures electronically from 12 April next year, rather than at the end of the second quarter.

Gilt futures will be the first futures contract to be traded on Liffe Connect, the new system, followed by index futures and bond futures. Short-term interest rate futures (STIR) contracts will be traded electronically from early July. As previously announced, electronic trading of individual equity options will start on November 30.

Brian Williamson, Liffe's recently appointed chairman, said: "Liffe has responded to the commercial demands of our customers by accelerating the introduction of Liffe Connect".



Source: Thomas Cook

Water shares hit by £8.5bn clean-up threat

SHARES IN water companies fell sharply yesterday after the Government warned that it expected them to invest £1.5bn on environmental clean-up programmes while still making "substantial" cuts in the average water bill.

Michael Meacher, the environment minister, suggested there was scope for a one-off cut in water charges of 10 per cent when the new five-year pricing

formula is introduced from 2000.

Shares across the sector fell by more than 3 per cent as the City took fright that the twin squeeze of higher environmental costs and lower prices might be worse than feared. Anglian closed 29p down at 833p, while Severn Trent ended 41p lower at 1063p and Hyder, owner of Welsh Water, lost 41p to 938.5p.

Robert Miller-Bakewell, water analyst for Merrill Lynch Global Securities, said: "This is an overdue reminder that there is a regulatory review in the background and that water is not just a steady utility stock that you can turn to when the market is turbulent."

The £8.5bn figure is £4bn more than the water industry has already budgeted to spend between 2000 and 2005 improv-

ing drinking water and bathing water standards and cleaning up rivers and coastal sewage discharges.

Another analyst said the Government was trying to face both ways, by emphasising its green agenda at the same time as demanding high price reductions. He added that although the £8.5bn figure was large, a lot would depend on how it was spread among the

water companies and how much the water regulator, Ian Byatt, allowed to be passed on to customers.

Andrew Stone of Daiwa Europe said: "You are seeing the political context which is always likely to be pro-consumer. Now we have to convert the political into the economic and that is up to Ofwat [the water regulator]."

Mr Byatt will unveil his ini-

tial proposals on water bills next month when he publishes "Prospects for Prices".

However, final price limits for each water company will not be set until November next year.

The new price controls take effect from April, 2000.

Water charges have risen by 36 per cent in real terms since the industry was privatised in 1989. The average bill now stands at £245.

Go-ahead for £1.9bn power takeover

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

competition in the generating market.

It will have to settle for a lower figure than that but it will still permit three or four new players to enter the market. Negotiations over how much plant National Power must dispose of are continuing but it will not be less than 4,000 megawatts.

In his second major competition decision in as many days, Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is today expected to agree not to refer the PowerGen deal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission subject to undertakings. These are likely to include conditions relating to ring-fencing and cross-subsidies, as well as the requirement to dispose of stations.

The move will come as a boost to the coal industry, which was further bolstered by news yesterday that Eastern Group is to invest £100m on environmental clean-up kit for its West Burton station in Nottinghamshire to allow the plant to continue burning British coal.

Mr Mandelson's ruling could also clear the way for a spate of further deals involving vertical integration between electricity generators and suppliers. Southern Electric and Scottish Hydro-Electric have already announced plans for a £5bn merger, and the nuclear generator British Energy is one of the front-runners to take over London Electricity.

The electricity regulator Professor Stephen Littlechild, had wanted the two big fossil-fuel generators, National Power and PowerGen, to dispose of half their coal-fired stations - equivalent to 10,000 megawatts of coal-fired capacity to increase

the move will come as a boost to the coal industry, which was further bolstered by news yesterday that Eastern Group is to invest £100m on environmental clean-up kit for its West Burton station in Nottinghamshire to allow the plant to continue burning British coal.

The merger will create a combined group with sales of £41bn and pre-tax profits of £520m. It is expected to yield savings of £30m a year.

Ed Wallis, the PowerGen chairman, took a risk that the deal would not be blocked by the MMC by making the takeover unconditional. PowerGen completed the purchase and handed over the money to East Midlands' US owners, Dominion Resources, two months ago.

The sale of two power stations will reduce PowerGen's portfolio to 10,000 megawatts, of which 6,000 will be coal fired. National Power has about 16,000 megawatts of capacity.

French Connection profits from ads

FRENCH CONNECTION, the fashion chain led by Stephen Marks, is continuing to enjoy a boost from its controversial f.c.u.k advertising campaign,

Water companies escape a soaking

HERE'S A fascinating irony. Since Labour came to power in May of last year, committed to curbing the supposed excesses of the "fat cat" water industry, water shares have been among the best performers in the stock market. This has been particularly the case since 17 July, when the onset of the bear market brought the defensive qualities of water and electricity fully into their own. But actually, these shares have been pretty consistent outperformers from the day Labour was elected. Is this a question, then, of Labour's bark being worse than its bite? There may be an element of that.

The windfall profits tax could have been a good deal harder on the water companies than it was, while so far the sort of numbers being talked about for higher environmental spending and lower bills are well within City expectations.

It may be that Ian Byatt, the water regulator, has a nasty shock in store for investors when he publishes his price review next month, but if so, he's keeping it very close to his chest. The 10 per cent one-off reduction suggested yesterday by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, was no worse than



OUTLOOK

the City was expecting. Nor were his numbers for extra capital spending. Of the additional £2.5bn announced, only £4bn is real additional spending.

In any case, as far as the City is concerned, the more spending the merrier. Not only are water companies allowed under the conditions of their licences to earn a defined rate of return on all capital spending, but they also have the opportunity to beat that rate through efficiency savings. The more spending, then, the less scope there is for reductions in bills and the more there is for enhancing profits.

Water shares suffered a bit yesterday after Mr Meacher's an-

nouncement, but this was hardly the sort of stuff to melt confidence in a sector which, set against what's going on in many other industries, seems to be a haven of safety and reliability. So much for "regulatory risk", the catchphrase attached to these stocks before Labour came to power. With the pound and interest rates so high, and the world economy teetering on the brink of recession, industries with regulatory risk seem the place to be.

The risk of oppressive regulation may in any case be something of an illusion. The lesson of British Gas, which famously accused the regulator of the biggest smash and grab raid in history, is that these utilities are capable of taking the very worst the regulator can throw at them and still come up smelling of roses. There is continued and considerable scope for efficiency gains in water companies, and that's before the wave of consolidation and merger activity being planned for this sector in the City.

Mr Byatt is going to have to raid shareholders' capital on a truly heroic scale to stop these companies continuing to deliver the real increases in dividends investors in the water industry have come to ex-

pect. He is bound to be harsh, but on past form, he's not going to be that harsh.

Supermarkets

THE BIG GUYS of the supermarket sector get it their own way most of the time, but they are certainly being pinched around a bit at the moment. Less than a month after the Office of Fair Trading launched a full-scale investigation into the sector, along comes another OFT report, this time into buying power.

Its central thesis is this: that while huge buying muscle can be in consumers' interests if those gains are passed on to consumers in a competitive environment, the likelihood of such benevolence reduces sharply when competitors achieve a stranglehold on their market.

The killer punch is this paragraph, which suggests that profits are bounding ahead too fast to sustain the argument that the buying power of the big chains operates in the consumer's interest, as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and OFT have maintained up until now.

The implication is clear – that

"something must be done". The more difficult issue is what. The supermarket sector is not a regulated monopoly and any attempt at legislating for it would almost certainly be counter-productive. America has the Robinson-Patman Act, which seeks to prohibit suppliers from offering preferential terms to selected buyers, thus limiting the effect of enhanced buying power. Unfortunately, forcing larger supermarkets to pay the same as the local corner shop is likely to lead to higher food prices, not lower ones.

Any attempt to force the supermarkets to lower their prices would be wrong in theory and impossible in practice. So perhaps all the Government can do is hope market developments come to its rescue. On this front, the advent of the euro should work miracles. The effect should be both to increase the pool of competitors and to flatten out prices across the single European market. Consumers would not tolerate food prices that were blatantly higher in the UK than elsewhere.

The gradual increase in home shopping may also help increase competition by drawing in rivals from other countries not saddled with the high cost base of a store portfolio.

But the times and the odds moved badly against him. The last time the MMC investigated the bookmaking business, when Mecca bid for William Hill in 1989, it concluded that it was a series of local markets. Nine years on it has swapped horses and decided that changes in technology have made it a national market, meaning that to reduce the big three to the big two is a non-starter. Mr George now has to conduct a fire sale of Coral in a failing market, knowing that the most obvious bidders are already ruled out. That must reduce his chances of recouping his original stake and hanging onto his job.

The Ladbroke chief executive must be looking enviously at Ed Walls of PowerGen. He also took a punt – paying £1.9bn for a regional electricity company in advance of regulatory clearance. Ed's bet looks to have paid off, even if he is parting company with more power stations than planned.

Sadly, neither decision casts much light on Mr Mandelson's attitude towards mergers, since he is in favour of handing over all decision-making powers in this area to an independent competition authority.

News Analysis: Betting chain buyout is deemed anti-competitive



Coral Bookmakers, Covent Garden, yesterday. Ladbrokes has been given six months to sell the 891 Coral shops

Fresh inquiry call on pensions mis-selling

BY ANDREW VERITY

CITY REGULATORS yesterday came under renewed pressure to launch a full-scale investigation of pension top-up contracts as fresh evidence emerged that tens of thousands of them had been mis-sold.

More than half of pension scheme managers believe the top-up contracts, known as free-standing additional voluntary contributions (FSAVCs), had been mis-sold to members of employers' schemes, according to a survey yesterday.

Bacon & Woodrow, the leading actuary who commissioned the survey, yesterday said there was no doubt that many of the policies had been mis-sold and called for a full-scale review of the products.

Additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) are pension top-

up policies sold to people who want to supplement the pension available from their employer. All employers are obliged to offer them if they already provide a pension scheme.

But concern has grown in recent years that financial advisers have persuaded thousands of employees to buy FSAVCs offered by insurance companies. It is feared that many employees have bought them without realising they are paying hefty commission and charges not levied by their employer.

Andy Cox, AVC expert at B&W, said: "There is no disputing that many pension scheme members who have taken out FSAVCs would have been financially better off with AVCs."

DTI bars Ladbroke from buying Coral

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday blocked Ladbroke's £363m acquisition of the Coral betting chain as anti-competitive and ordered the hotel and leisure group to sell the 891 shops within six months.

In his first major decision on competition policy since taking over from Margaret Beckett in July, Peter Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said the Ladbroke's purchase "would damage competition and disadvantage punters" by extending its dominant position in the UK betting market.

The decision puts an end to a fierce lobbying battle started in May when Ladbroke agreed to buy the Coral shops from brewing giant Bass.

The deal triggered a wave of protests from a number of politicians and bookmakers, and was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) for a full inquiry by Mrs Beckett in March. The MMC delivered its report to the Department of Trade and Industry at the end of July.

Mr Mandelson said he accepted the "unanimous conclusions" of the MMC that the deal would "reduce punters' choice" and "weaken price competition", both at a national and domestic level.

"I accept the conclusion that the merger is against the public interest, with adverse effects on price competition, innovation and choice, to the detriment of punters," he said.

Mr Mandelson added that the takeover was anti-competitive for two reasons. First, Ladbroke, with around 1,900 shops, is already the largest owner of off-racecourse betting shops.

The acquisition of Coral would have increased its share of betting shops from 21 per cent of the total to 30 per cent, widening the gap between Ladbroke and its nearest rival, William Hill. William Hill is owned by the Japanese finance house Nomura, which controls around

merging the Coral shops into its existing chain. The Coral shops made a £17.1m contribution to the group's profit in the first half of the year.

Peter George, Ladbroke chief executive, said the group was "very disappointed" with the DTI's decision. He claimed that the company had received "supportive initial guidance" from the Office of Fair Trading at the time of the deal.

However, an OFT source said yesterday it had advised Ladbroke that the merger would only be cleared if the MMC used the same criteria with which it judged the 1998 merger of William Hill and Mecca.

One of the key planks of the MMC's case against the deal was that the bookmaking world had changed since 1998 and that the William Hill/Mecca yardsticks no longer applied. In

merging the Coral shops into its existing chain. The Coral shops made a £17.1m contribution to the group's profit in the first half of the year.

However, the MMC demonstrated that technological changes, the influence of television and a relaxation of gambling taxes have transformed betting from a local activity, centred on the neighbourhood bookie, into a UK-wide business where competition is measured on national terms.

"This evolution of the industry over recent years, and the differing structural effects of the two mergers, mean that the Ladbroke/Coral and Mecca/William Hill mergers are not directly comparable," the DTI concluded.

At the same time, concentration increased to unprecedented levels. According to the MMC (see table), the five largest bookmakers controlled 70 per cent of total betting turnover in 1997, compared with 65 per cent in 1993.

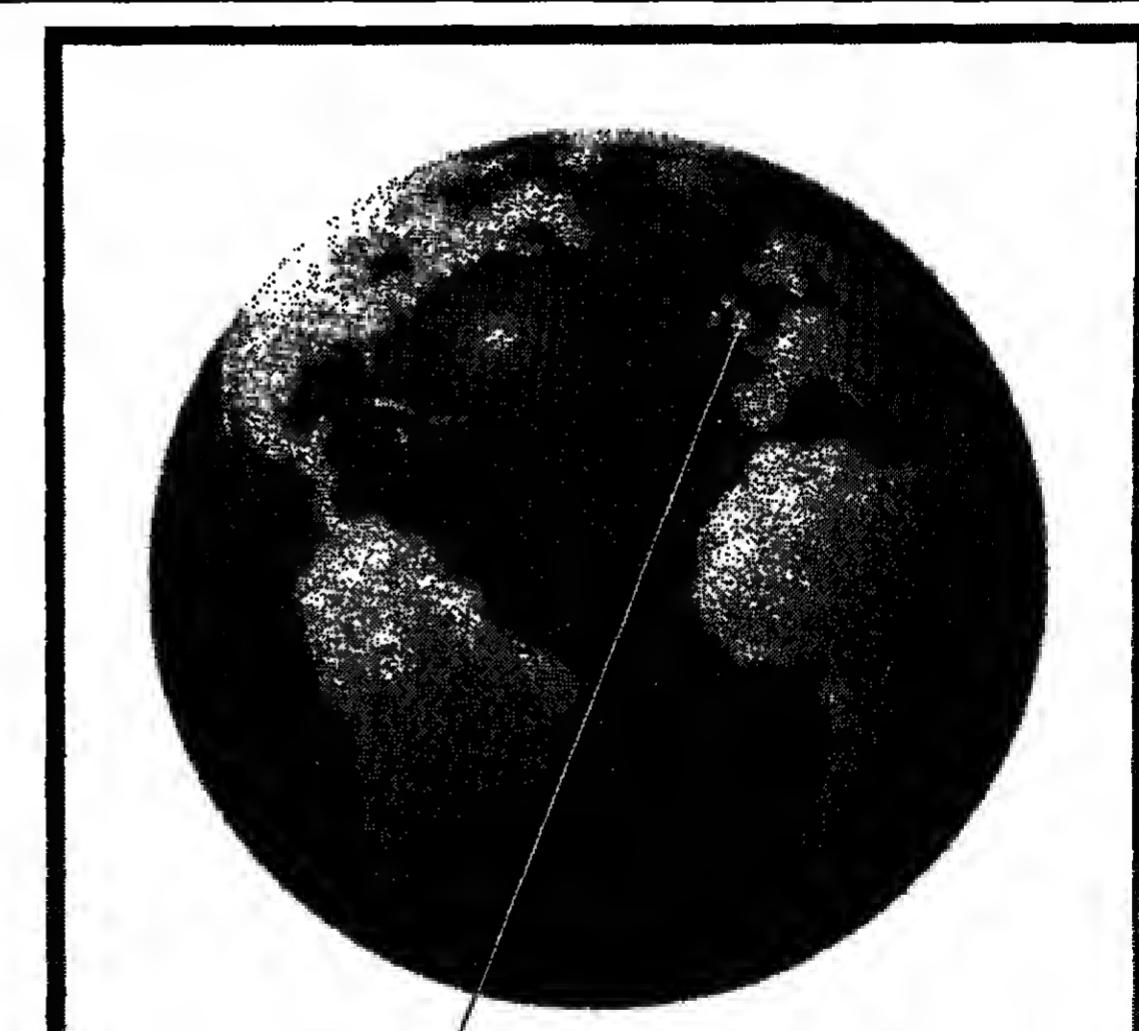
The remaining 30 per cent is scattered among a myriad of independent operators which are too small to compete

WHERE BRITAIN BETS					
Market share in off-course betting, 1997		Breakdown of betting, 1997			
Turnover, £m	Share, %		Footie	Total, £m	Total, %
Ladbroke	1,577	26	Horse race	4,932	70.2
Coral	765	12	Greyhound race	1,256	18.2
Combined	2,342	38	Total	45	0.6
William Hill	1,360	22	Subtotal	6,203	89.0
Stanley	380	6	Football	521	4.6
Tote	130	2	Numbers games	247	3.5
Others	1,976	32	Slot machines	111	1.6
Total	5,190	100	Other betting	83	1.2
Source: MMC			Other services	6	0.1
			Total	5,190	100.0

broke to divest the "whole" of Coral. He recommended that Coral be sold to a single buyer, but added that a break-up of the group could be acceptable if it led to a "more robust competitive environment".

Tote will now return to Coral the 133 outlets it bought for £45m earlier this year, as the deal was conditional on the approval of the merger.

Mr Mandelson's decision is a blow to Ladbroke, which had hoped to cut costs by up to £15m and to achieve economies of scale in its betting division by



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IMF braced for further Russian blow

THE INTERNATIONAL financial community is bracing itself for another fierce blow from Russia - the likelihood that it will default or, at best, restructure some \$200bn of foreign currency debt.

Analysts predict that Moscow will be unable to find \$19.2bn due next year threatening to drive Russia's financial crisis to new depths and deepen its isolation.

"The position at present looks like another default or restructuring," said a western diplomatic source. "They have got themselves into a very, very deep hole."

Although Russia has promised to honour its foreign debts, its credibility has been badly undermined by its decision in August to freeze \$40bn of ruble-denominated domestic debt, gridlocking the banking system and leaving foreign investors high and dry.

In more normal circumstances, Russia could borrow enough funds to roll over \$19bn of interest and principle payments due next year; it is not an exceptionally large sum for a large country.

But a severe loss of international confidence, com-

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

pounded by its steepening economic decline, has diminished its chances of raising the money.

Neither the International Monetary Fund nor the World Bank is likely to look favourably on the idea of bailing out Moscow again, particularly given the return to power of Gorbachev-era free-market sceptics.

Michel Camdessus, the International Monetary Fund's managing director, said yesterday that the fund - which has a team in Moscow discussing the future of its now discredited \$23bn rescue package - was ready to support Russia as long as Moscow presents a "credible reform plan".

But there are few signs that Russia can satisfy that criteria. "The choice is between defaulting and rescheduling," Thierry Mallerat, an economist with Russia's Alfa Capital told the Moscow Times newspaper. "Russia is totally broke and I don't see how the situation could improve."

Another default would repeat an unfortunate pattern that

stretches back to the 1917 revolution, when the Bolsheviks refused to honour billions of dollars-worth of tsarist-era bonds.

Western commercial banks have yet to forgive Russia for restructuring \$25bn of Soviet-era debt to the London Club.

The archpriest of Russia's market economics, Anatoly Chubais, believes that Russia had no choice but to turn to the IMF to meet its foreign debts, even this year.

An agreement with the IMF would be difficult. But without one, Moscow would resort to using currency reserves, spawning an even more intense attack on the ruble.

RAIL PASSENGERS on the East Coast Mainline should suffer fewer delays in the future, following a multi-million pound investment in state-of-the-art software to improve signalling, writes Michael Harrison.

AEA Technology has been awarded a contract by the infrastructure maintenance company Jarvis Rail to install the software at three control centres along the line.

The equipment improves the routing and tracking of trains, enabling controllers to give priority to high-speed passenger trains rather than slower freight trains.

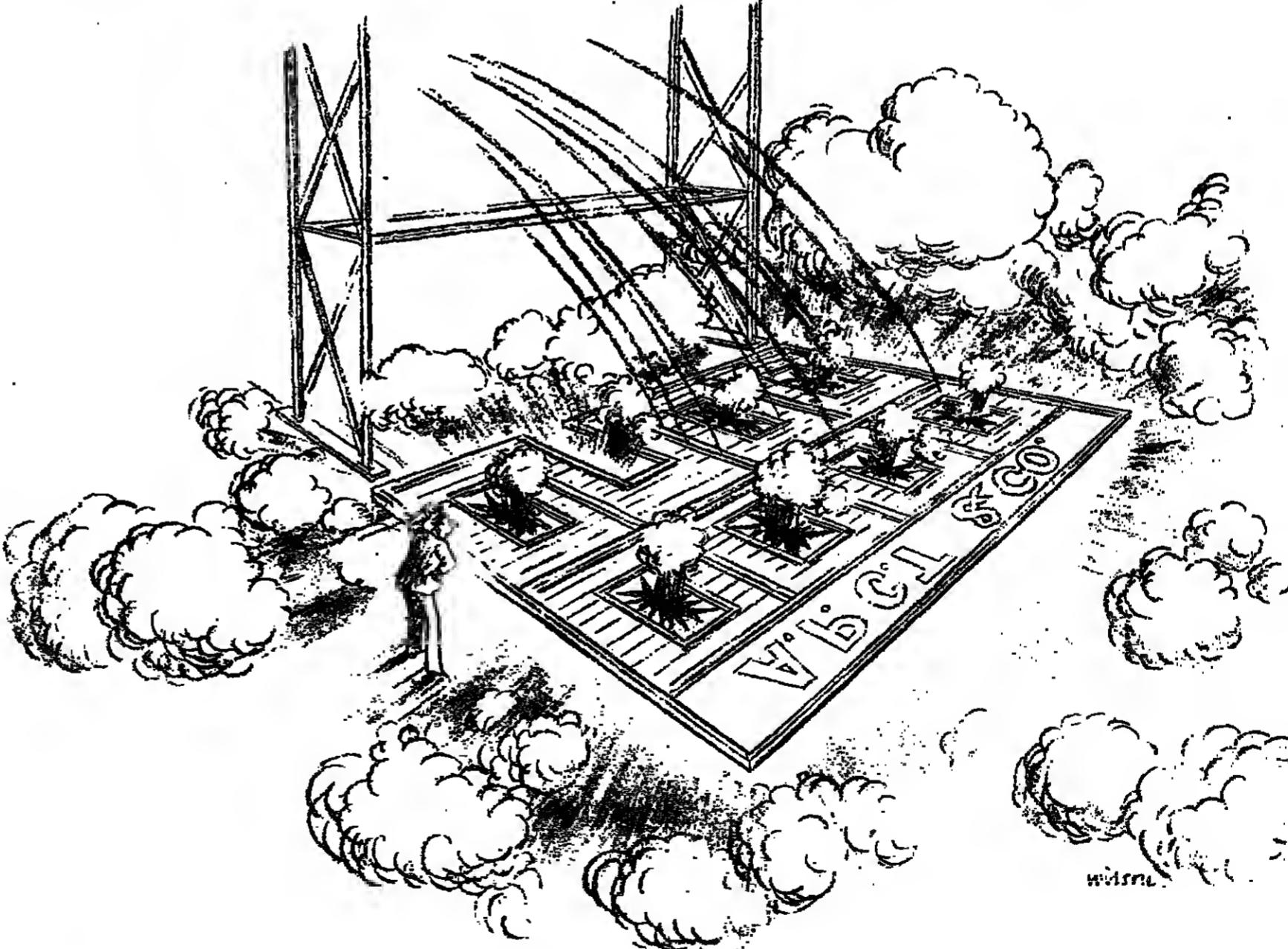
The software will be installed over the next three months at three electronic control centres in York and on Tyneside.

As well as reducing train delays, the equipment should also save Railtrack money since it is liable to pay penalties for hold-ups caused by problems with the rail infrastructure.

Investment, page 23



Our competitors promise to save money on BT's business calls. Frankly, there isn't much behind them.



IN BRIEF

Barratt attacks government over economic and planning policies

BARRATT, BRITAIN'S second largest housebuilder, yesterday became the latest construction group to attack the government's economic and planning policies. Frank Eaton, the chairman, said the government's management of the economy was "seriously undermining consumer confidence". He added that authorities failed to implement planning policies to meet the UK's housing needs. Barratt reported a 33 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profit to a record £33.3m.

Derivative risks in the open

UK COMPANIES are for the first time having to disclose a range of information about the risks from derivatives and other financial instruments, as a result of today's publication of a new accounting standard. The Accounting Standards Board says Financial Reporting Standard 13 is necessary because derivatives often do not appear in accounts, yet can quickly give rise to assets or, more seriously, liabilities.

Dawson suffers bigger loss

LOSSES AT Dawson International deepened to £23.6m in the six months to 4 July from a £4.2m loss the year earlier, the textile company revealed yesterday. The maker of Pringle clothing blamed the loss on Asia's economic crisis and the strong pound. Chairman Derek Finlay said problems had been caused by the strength of sterling, the full impact of the Asian economic crisis and fashion trends away from heavy woollen yarns and knitwear.

Dawson reduced its workforce by 24 per cent, which represents an £8m reduction in operating costs for the full financial year. The shares closed off 6p at 76.5p, down from a 12-month peak of 76.5p.

Summer slowdown for brewer

THE REGIONAL brewer and pub operator, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries yesterday blamed "testing market conditions" for a slowdown in sales in the 47 weeks to 22 August, down from a 4.7 per cent increase in the first half of the year to 2.5 per cent. In a trading update ahead of its annual results, finance director Ralph Findlay said: "As far as brewers are concerned, summer did not happen." The shares gained 19p to 396p.

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It seems every new telecoms company that opens its doors claims it can save your business more money than BT.

In fact, the savings are often not what they seem. Some of our competitors don't always take into account our discounts and often compare their best rates against BT's basic rates.

BT, on the other hand, can offer significant discounts on all your business calls (not just selected calls) 24 hours a day.

Certainly, our competitors don't take into account the £8 million a day we've spent over the last 13 years ensuring

the quality of our service; the 53,000 people working on our network; or that we monitor the reliability of our network 24 hours a day.

As a result, on average a company reports only one fault every 7 years - just one of the many reasons for being with BT.

Call **Freephone 0800 800 800** or visit our website on www.bt.com/business and find out how much you can save, and still have the promise of BT behind you.



MAIN MOVERS									
RISES					FALLS				
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Blue chips leave the small fry behind

BLUE CHIPS once again displayed a clean pair of heels to their smaller brethren. As Footsie's recovery continued the stock market's supporting shares endured another nervous, despairing session.

There were stories that leading fund managers were dumping second-line stocks. Mercury Asset Management, part of Merrill Lynch, was said to have unloaded supporting shares, particularly chemicals and engineers.

The contrast in the fortunes of blue chips and the under-card was dramatic. Footsie jumped 11.14 to 5,214.7 as the mid cap index lost 3.4 to 4,584.2 and the small cap dropped 3.4 to 2,032.6, yet another low for the year.

The feeling that blue chips had been hit too hard in the downward spiral from the July peak, plus takeover hopes and a growing expectation that interest rate cuts will soon appear, spurred leaders.

But there was unease amid the euphoria. NatWest stockmilk's head of research, Jeremy Balstone, warned that shares could be hit by deflationary pressures next year. He suggested a cut of up to 40 per cent could materialise. Still, in the mean-

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN



time, he expects Footsie will rebound to around 5,800 by the end of the year.

Waters, regarded as safe havens in the market slide, took a bath on the CS15 Government demand for price cuts and improvements to the quality of services provided. Severn Trent fell 40p to 1,062p and United Utilities 32p to 908p.

There seemed to be a heavy flow of profit downgradings. Bass, hit last week by a profits warning, was again flat on suggestions that analysts, after talks with the group, were preparing to pull forecasts even

lower than the 2640m or so they alighted on after the Bass caution.

Storehouse slumped 24.5p to 188p. BT Alex Brown did the damage. The investment house cut its estimates by 27m to £127m for next year, by £12m to £13m for the following year.

Still the takeover speculation industry continued to thrive. GRE, up 18.5p to 277.5p, was again seen as an Allied Zurich target. The feeling that bid action could break out among the depressed insurers lifted Royal & Sun Alliance 46.5p to 553p and CGU 59p to 93p. Thursday's other bid candidate, Reed International, rose a further 15.5p to 550p.

Granada's investment presentation provided inspiration, with the shares up 51p to 777p. Lehman Brothers said buy, repeating its 850p target.

Marks & Spencer edged forward 4p to 446p as ABN Amro said buy, and Next improved 25.25p to 399.25p after chief executive David Jones picked up 100,000 shares at 370.5p and director Simon Wolfson 270,000 at 370.5p.

ABN was also behind a 28p jump

to 377p by British Aerospace, and Cable & Wireless scored from CSFB buy advice, gaining 36p to 558p.

Ladbrokes was unfazed by the block on its Coral betting shop acquisition, cantering 17.75p to 222p.

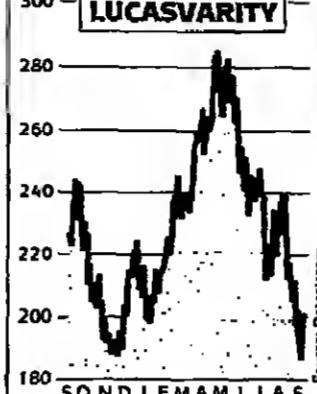
NATWEST Enterprise Trust, a venture capital group where National Westminster Bank is the biggest shareholder, jumped 30.5p to 304.5p, a peak, as possible predators made their presence known. At the end of June the company's net assets were around 376p a share. The trust said a number of parties had shown interest. Because of a conflict of interest, ABN Amro is no longer the company's stockbroker, replaced by West Merchant Bank.

Energis put on 52.5p to 775p in a further reflection of the Henderson Crookshank buy recommendation.

LucasVarity, the enginee, moved ahead 5p to 200p. There is growing unease about its proposal to move its domicile to the US. John Buckland at

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

LUCASVARTY



Source: Datastream

unruffled by the Office of Fair Trading-sponsored probe. Asda, at one time up 13.5p, ended 5p higher at 174.5p and Tesco gained 1.75p to 171.75p. Safeway, Somerfield and J Sainsbury ended a little lower.

The day's worst performer was Infobank, off 77.5p to 42.5p. It blew a fuse after what was unquestionably a profits warning by the electronic systems and software group. The shares were floated at 125p in February last year.

Euro Sales Finance, providing finance to small and medium sized companies, slipped 7.5p to 280p after duly reporting profits of £1.3m against £163,000 and disclosing plans to move from AIM to a full listing.

Memory Corporation's run continued with the shares moving ahead 6.5p to 28p. They have climbed from 15p on Monday, when BancBoston Robertson Stephens put a 50p target on the shares.

Emerald Energy held at 9.25p. It made encouraging noises about its Gigante drill in Colombia, saying a positive outcome is expected in two weeks. Talk in the market suggests that a 1.2 billion barrel field has been discovered, which could be worth 25p on a Emerald share.

Brake Brothers, supplying convenience food to caterers, was roared 112.5p to 635p after making what the market regarded as a profits warning. The company, however, disputed such an interpretation of its comments.

Supermarkets were largely

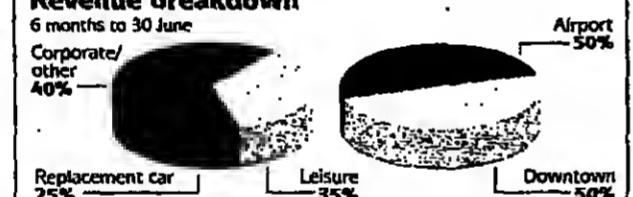
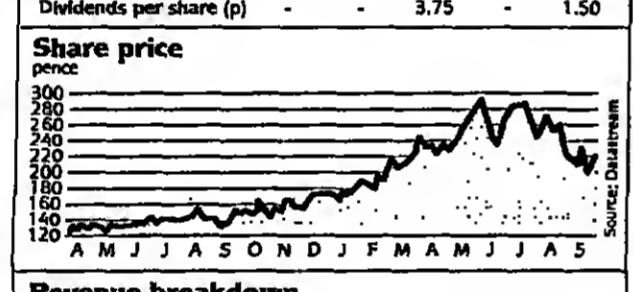
Economic gloom fails to dent Avis car rentals

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

AVIS EUROPE: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.28bn, share price 223p (22p)
full year to 28 Feb - half year to 30 Jun
Turnover (£m) 477.00 512.00 505.00 234.00 252.00
Pre-tax profits (£m) 26.10 57.00 75.60 22.30 36.00
Earnings per share (p) 8.60 10.10 5.20 4.60
Dividends per share (p) - 3.75 - 1.50



Warning from Bowthorpe

YOU HAVE to feel for Nick Brookes. The chief executive of Bowthorpe's warning that its growth in the second half would slow. Although the group's Network Systems division, which serves the fast-moving telecom sector, is expanding quickly, other divisions are not so robust. Profits in the Cable Management and research and development, and shared more information, with the City.

Until the beginning of June everything was fine. Then investors got the jitters and the shares slipped to almost half their 50p high. They shed another 34p to 233.5p yesterday as analysts downgraded their full-year profit forecasts to 92p.

At first glance, this looks harsh. In the six months to June Bowthorpe managed an 18 per cent jump in operating profits on an 11 per cent increase in sales. Although this

included the benefit of some acquisitions the underlying profit growth rate was still a healthy 11 per cent.

The problem was Bowthorpe's warning that its growth in the second half would slow. Although the group's Network Systems division, which serves the fast-moving telecom sector, is expanding quickly, other divisions are not so robust.

Certainly, the company has suffered some blows since its shares peaked at more than 20 earlier this year. One problem stemmed from trouble with new computer systems. Teething troubles had knock-on effects in the food services distribution operation, causing a one-off hit of £2m for extra labour. Bad weather and dwindling consumer confidence meant fewer people ate out.

But there's no reason to assume this will last forever. Puritan Maid, the multi-temperature distribution service, is no longer plagued by giant losses, while Brak's French division is thriving.

There are risks. Exposure to the personal computer cycle could upset short-term earnings, while there is the prospect of further gloom about the au-

tomotive and aerospace industries. But on a forward earnings multiple of just 12 it's hard to see the shares falling much further. A firm hold.

Harsh verdict on Brake

EXECUTIVES AT Brake Brothers could be forgiven for thinking the market dealt somewhat harshly with the food distribution company yesterday. After what was interpreted as a profit warning, the share price plunged 11p to 655.5p - a 15 per cent drop.

True chairman Frank Brake had sounded downbeat as he unveiled the company's first-half results. He said the UK catering market was temporarily slowing down because of lower confidence in the economy. The second half had started slow, he said, adding: "Some improvement is being experienced in September but we are cautious, although not pessimistic, with regard to the outlook for the year as a whole."

But it is not clear this really amounts to a profit warning. Pre-tax profits grew by 27 per cent to £1.27m in the first half. Even if the second half is slower, Brake is still growing nicely.

Certainly, the company has suffered some blows since its shares peaked at more than 20 earlier this year. One problem stemmed from trouble with new computer systems. Teething

troubles had knock-on effects in the food services distribution operation, causing a one-off hit of £2m for extra labour. Bad weather and dwindling consumer confidence meant fewer people ate out.

But there's no reason to assume this will last forever. Puritan Maid, the multi-temperature distribution service, is no longer plagued by giant losses, while Brak's French division is thriving.

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tomotive and aerospace industries. But on a forward earnings multiple of just 12 it's hard to see the shares falling much further. A firm hold.

How to wind up a lawyer

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

LAWYERS ARE eunuchs, according to John Verrill, the vice president of the Insolvency Lawyers Association.

Let me explain. Most liquidators and receivers in this country tend to be accountants, but around 180 of those licensed to be "insolvency practitioners" are lawyers.

Few of the lawyers actually go out and wind up companies up, since accountants are keen to keep this privilege to themselves, says Mr Verrill, who is also senior insolvency partner at Lawrence Graham, a City-based law firm.

Being qualified to liquidate companies and yet not doing so places lawyers in the same position as eunuchs, says Mr Verrill. "We know how to do it, we see it done every day, yet we don't do it ourselves."

I'll never look at lawyers in quite the same way again.

FACTORIES MAY be closing around the country as recession bites, but yesterday a Ford subsidiary opened a new 240m factory in Enfield, north London, safeguarding around 1,000 jobs. And it's being run by a woman.

The onward march of female equality was a key theme at the opening ceremony, as Enfield's plant manager, Oj Alvarado, was joined by Barbara Roche MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry; Joan Ryan, MP for Enfield North; and Pauline Green MEP for London North.

Vistron, the wholly-owned Ford subsidiary that runs the plant, has been making components at Enfield since 1963.

Mrs Alvarado is the daughter of a migrant agricultural worker from Texas. She was the first of her family to go on to higher education, gained a degree in engineering, and joined Vistron in 1977 as a graduate trainee. She sounds like a tough cookie.

Perhaps she should have a



Retired footballer Lee Chapman and his wife, Leslie Ash, star of the television sitcom 'Men Behaving Badly' Patrick Burrows/FNP

word with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, about interest rates.

TO THE Teatro, a trendy private club in Shaftesbury Avenue owned by Leslie 'Men Behaving Badly' Ash and her retired footballer husband, Lee Chapman, to celebrate the publication of 'The London Fashion Book' by Andrew Tucker.

The party, laid on by publisher Thames & Hudson and co-sponsored by Moet & Chandon, may have been celebrating London's place in the international fashion scene, but the crush in the dimly-lit bar was more reminiscent of the Black Hole of Calcutta.

The final straw came when I was asked to pay for my own drinks; £11 for two glasses of champers. Imagine

Needless to say I stalked out, and calmed my outrage with a couple of pints of Guinness in the Coach and Horses, the famed Soho watering hole of the late Jeffrey Bernard, satirist, handily sited next door.

I think I'll leave fashion to the experts in future.

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
ABIS Europe (I)	850.00	22.00	1.50	1.50	25.11.98	65.10.98
Brake Brothers (I)	850.00	22.00	1.50	1.50	25.11.98	65.10.98
Brake Bros (I)	343m (331m)	12.7m (10.8m)	3.5p (2.30)	3.5p (2.30)	31.12.98	30.11.98
Bracelabs (I)	8.4m (5.7m)	1.0m (1.1m)	-0.15 (0.30)	-0.15 (0.30)	-	-1
Broadstone (I)	225m (206m)	45.1m (40.2m)	1.15 (1.15)	1.15 (1.15)	07.12.98	05.10.98
Brown & Root (I)	77.1m (72.0m)	1.0m (1.0m)	0.05 (0.05)	0.05 (0.05)	-	-1
Brundage (I)	14.2m (14.2m)	1.03m (1.11m)	0.05 (0.05)	0.05 (0.05)	-	-1
Edinburgh Food Mfrs (I)	7.35m (7.17m)	0.58m (0.56m)	0.05 (0.05)	0.05 (0.05)	02.11.98	05.10.98
East West Finance (I)	50.2m (50.7m)	10.8m (9.5m)	1.15 (1.15)	1.15 (1.15)	0.05 (0.05)	05.11.98
Eastgate (I)	472.2m (477.7m)	16.0m (23.9m)	1.75 (2.75)	1.75 (2.75)	02.11.98	18.10.98
McRitchie (I)	458.0m (478.7m)	8.8m (21.9m)	1.45 (1.25)	1.45 (1.25)	02.11.98	03.12.98
McRitchie (I)	220.5 (221.3)	8.8m (8.8m)	1.45 (1.45)	1.45 (1.45)	-	-1
McRitchie (I)	33.2m (33.2m)	1.1m (1.1m)	0.05 (0.05)	0.05 (0.05)	-	-1
Quality Software (I)	3.5m (3.4m)	1.25m (1.25m)	0.05 (0.05)	0.05 (0.05)	-	-1
Ryan Hotels (I)	14.5m (14.4m)	0.25m (0.25m)	0.05 (0.05)	0.05 (0.05)	05.08.98	05.09.98
Salvation Army (I)	12.5m (12.5m)	0.25m (0.25m)	0.05 (0.05)	0.05 (0.05)	05.08.98	05.09.98
Scotiabank (I)	12.5m (12.5m)	0.25m (0.25m)	0.05 (0.05)	0.05 (0.05)	05.08.9	

SPORT

Cricket: As a select few get ready for an Ashes tour, the game's rank and file must look elsewhere to make ends meet

Players prepare for the big freeze

THE COMING of misty autumn evenings signals, among other things, the end of another English cricket season, a time of sadness and reflection for the game's devotees and the final surrender of the sports pages to the great god, football.

For players bound for foreign shores with the England Test squad and the other representative teams, the bringing down of one curtain merely beckons the raising of another. For the vast majority peddling their talents in the county game, however, the prospect looms of six months in

which their principal employer deletes them from the payroll.

Unlike the footballers with whom, for a couple of months at least, they are afforded equal status by the image makers - and breakers - of the national press, cricketers are paid only when they work. And, more to the point, they are paid at rates for a season that some of their better-heeled footballing brothers would expect to apply by the week.

A Test player might earn £40,000 - perhaps even more - for his six months, but that category rep-

resents a tiny proportion of the workforce. At the other end of the scale a junior professional might pick up as little as £7,000-8,000. The average senior probably collects around £25,000, although this is not necessarily a firm rule: the minimum for a second-year capped player - one who has served an unspecified "apprenticeship" and proved his worth - is much lower; at £20,000.

Hence the need for most bread-and-butter county players, without whom there would be no bedrock to underpin Test cricket, to find gain-

BY JON
CULLEY

ful employment during the winter. Yet the current situation is considered to be substantially better than that which existed only a few years ago.

"Things have improved," Nottinghamshire's 1998 beneficiary, the 35-year-old Kevin Evans, said. "When the television deal with Sky

was negotiated, the Professional Cricketers' Association won a share of the fee for the players, which gave us a pay rise of about £3,000.

"Minimum levels were established, meaning a capped player can at least be sure of what some people would regard as a decent income. Above that it is down to the individual and what he can negotiate for himself. And it depends on where you play because some counties pay better than others."

What constitutes a "decent" in-

come varies, of course, from one in-

dividual to another; depending on his circumstances. "We are better paid," Evans' team-mate, Paul Johnson, said. "But at the same time your overheads have risen; you might have moved house and taken on a bigger mortgage. So you need to earn something in the winter to pay the bills."

Johnson has driven lorries and even killed cattle in an abattoir during his 18 years at Trent Bridge. But the range of employment possibilities has shrunk.

"In the past, a committee mem-

ber might have found a player a job in his company but these days busi-

nesses are less able to do such things," Nottinghamshire's chief executive, Mark Arthur, said.

"At Trent Bridge we employ seven or eight players on our cricket in the community scheme and we use contacts overseas - we have established links with New Zealand, for example - to help players find clubs abroad.

"We cannot afford to go Lancashire's way and put people on 12-month contracts but we do our best to help and I'm happy to say none of our staff will need to draw the dole."

A WINTER'S TALE. HOW THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE XI WHO CLOSED THE SEASON AGAINST GLOUCESTERSHIRE LAST WEEK WILL SPEND THE COMING MONTHS



CHRIS TOLLEY
(ALL-ROUNDER)

Aged 30; born Kidderminster; Notts since 1996.

"I HAVE a degree in sports science and while I was with Worcestershire I spent six winters teaching, five of them at Chase High School in Malvern, but I don't have the contacts around Nottingham. I've always been interested in fitness and rehabilitation. Last winter I trained as a sports massage therapist and I'm hoping to work in the rehab unit currently being developed in our new grandstand complex. I may go back to teaching at some stage but I would always want to do something that makes use of the degree. This winter I will be doing some coaching for the club, too. On top of that I'm also getting married."

NOEL GIE
(BATSMAN)

Aged 21; born Pretoria, South Africa; Notts since school, debut 1995.

"IN PAST winters I have been away, once on an England Under-19 tour and a couple of times to South Africa, but this winter I plan to do a lot of studying. I'm doing a four-year course in business studies which will hopefully lead to a BA and I need to catch up on what I have missed since last April, which will involve going to lectures at Nottingham University and working at home. I'm hoping to gain some practical experience working in sales and marketing for a computer firm in Birmingham. A cricket career can last a season or 15 years and it is important to be prepared for another life. Ideally I would play for six months a year and work in business for the other six."

ANDY ORAM
(PACE BOWLER)

Aged 23; born Northampton; Notts since 1997.

"I'M GOING to play Australian grade cricket for Perth in Western Australia from October until March. The first match is on 4 October and I expect to be back for pre-season training here at the beginning of March. I want to come back physically and mentally stronger, ready for next season. A lot of players do go abroad in the winter. I was lucky enough to be approached but others find their own trips and make contacts when they get there. The club is providing me with a car and accommodation. When I was at Northamptonshire I worked in the paper industry on the sales and marketing side. I also have an interest in a restaurant in Northampton."

MATT WHILEY
(PACE BOWLER)

Aged 18; born Nottingham; Notts from school, debut in this match (0 and 0 not out; 1 for 66 and 0 for 58).

"LAST WINTER I played club cricket in New Zealand for six months after being recommended by the county. This winter I'm going to New Zealand again with the England Under-19 squad, which came as a surprise seeing as I've only now broken into the first team. The tour does not begin until January but there are three squad sessions to attend and next here. Until now I've been relying on some sponsorship to help with living expenses, as well as working for my dad in his plumbing and heating business. I always set my sights on being a cricketer. I've never thought about what I will do if it does not work out."

CHRIS READ
(WICKETKEEPER)

Aged 26; born Paignton; Notts since 1997.

"I WENT on the England A tours to Kenya and Sri Lanka last winter and I've been selected again for Zimbabwe and South Africa, starting in January. Before then we have a fairly extensive training schedule, with fitness sessions and a week in the Lake District on a team bonding programme. I was at university for a year when I left school but I dropped out when I decided I'd be better off playing cricket. I don't know what I'll do in future years. I might have gone into teaching if I had not played cricket but everything has happened so fast that cricket is all I think about, really. Hopefully, I've got a few years ahead of me in the game."

GRAEME ARCHER
(BATSMAN)

Aged 27; born Carlisle; Notts since 1992.

"I'LL BE working for the county on the coaching scheme for schools that we operate. I've been to New Zealand four times in past winters and I just want to rest this time. The coaching involves eight to 10 year olds, so it is not too taxing. I really enjoy doing it. I was assistant to the sports master at Durham School the year before I came on the staff. It is good fun working with the kids and you rarely have any trouble from them. The majority of cricketers find things to do off-season through contacts made in the game. Otherwise, it is a case of down to the Job Centre. I'm not married and it is a lot harder for cricketers with families to support."



USMAN AFZAAL
(OPENING BATSMAN)

Aged 21; born Rawalpindi, Pakistan; Notts from school, debut 1995.



PAUL JOHNSON
(BATSMAN)

Aged 33; born Newark; Notts from school, debut 1982.

"I'VE BEEN with the county for 18 years and it used to be a financial necessity to find some work for the close season. I've done a variety of things, including jobs in sports shops and record shops and driving a lorry. Once I worked in a butcher's where we had a small abattoir and killed our own beasts. I've been abroad a few times in the past but that's really for the younger men. When you have a family your responsibilities are at home. In my case that is especially important because I have a daughter with Down's Syndrome. I've been appointed cricket development officer for Lincolnshire, which will keep me occupied but let me spend time at home too."



JASON GALLIAN
(BATSMAN AND CAPTAIN)

Aged 27; born Manly, Australia; Notts since 1998.

"THIS IS going to be a busy winter. We have just parted company with our cricket manager and as captain, I'll be involved in planning the structure of the club for next season and will have an input in any appointments made. I'm also going to do some more work with the marketing department here. I did that last winter before I started playing for the county, and found it really useful in getting to know people and how things work around the place. In addition, I'm scheduled to go on a pro-am tour to Barbados and I'd also like to take time out to see my mum and sister in Australia."



PAUL FRANKS
(PACE BOWLER)

Aged 19; born Sutton-in-Ashfield; Notts from school, debut 1996.

"I WENT to South Africa on my second England Under-19 tour last winter and played for the Under-19 side again this summer. I had hopes of going on tour again this winter but did not make it, although I understand I was on the shortlist. I had a good summer, although I only played in 12 matches; I've gained a lot of experience this year. I'm going to be involved with the county's schools coaching scheme, which will take me from November through to pre-season. I'm interested in the coaching and team management side of the game. The idea of putting a county team together appeals to me as something I'd like to do in the future."

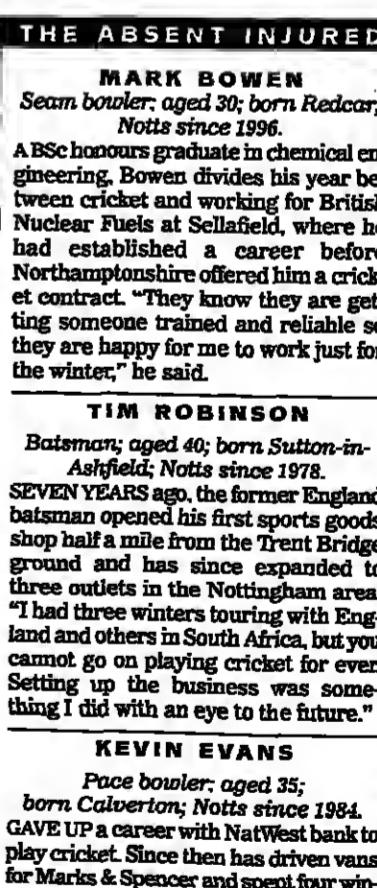


MATTHEW DOWMAN
(BATSMAN)

Aged 24; born Grantham; Notts debut 1993.

"I HAVE a slight stress fracture in the left leg that needs a period of rest, so I will not be going abroad. Last winter I was in New Zealand and I've also had a winter in Australia. I'm buying a house, so that will keep me busy in any case. The county have given me some work on their coaching scheme but I am at that age when you need to start looking to broaden your horizons. For a six-month contract the money is good but you need something for the rest of the year. I might look into studying for a business management qualification. The marketing of cricket clubs is a developing area."

Photographs by Peter Jay



MARK BOWEN
Seam bowler; aged 40; born Redcar; Notts since 1996.

ABSc honours graduate in chemical engineering, Bowen divides his year between cricket and working for British Nuclear Fuels at Sellafield, where he had established a career before Northamptonshire offered him a cricket contract. "They know they are getting someone trained and reliable so they are happy for me to work just for the winter," he said.

TIM ROBINSON
Batsman; aged 40; born Sutton-in-Ashfield; Notts since 1978. SEVEN YEARS ago, the former England batsman opened his first sports goods shop half a mile from the Trent Bridge ground and has since expanded to three outlets in the Nottingham area. "I had three winters touring with England and others in South Africa, but you cannot go on playing cricket for ever. Setting up the business was something I did with an eye to the future."

KEVIN EVANS
Pace bowler; aged 35; born Calverton; Notts since 1984. GAVE UP a career with NatWest bank to play cricket. Since then has driven vans for Marks & Spencer and spent four winters on projects for the sausage and pie manufacturer Pork Farms, among other jobs. "I'm negotiating a new contract and tying up the loose ends of my benefit year so I will not be looking for employment this winter, unless anything comes up that fits in."

RICHARD BATES
Off-spin bowler; aged 26; born Stamford; Notts since 1993. HAS PLAYED abroad but usually signs up for the county's community coaching scheme, which runs through the winter and involves visiting two or three schools each day. "It provides an income to get by on during the close season and lets you have time to practise and train which you would not get if you were in a nine-to-five job outside cricket."

July 10 1998

Golf: Former world No 1 cites lack of communication as reason for split from coach who guided him to six majors



David Leadbetter (left) issues the instructions to his star pupil, Nick Faldo, during a rainy session on the practice ground at the Open at Birkdale earlier this year

Merit title quest hots up

BY PHIL CASEY
in Cologne

EUROPE'S TOP three golfers resume battle at the Linde German Masters today - with the Order of Merit title up for grabs. Lee Westwood, Darren Clarke and the five-times winner Colin Montgomerie are separated by just £22,000 at the top of the standings with only three events left.

But, with the winner at Gut Larchenhof, near Cologne, collecting £166,660, a victory for any of the trio would make them the hot favourite to top the standings and collect the Vardon Trophy that has been in Montgomerie's possession since 1993.

The 35-year-old Scot has the most impressive recent record, with victory in the OneTwo British Masters plus 12th and 11th-place finishes in his last three events.

Montgomerie's run is all the more authoritative as it comes after missing the cut for a second successive week at the BMW International in Munich, the first time he has suffered such an ignominy since 1991. Since then he has gone back to working with his old coach, Bill Ferguson, and has begun to cure a destructive book that had developed, and rediscover his highly consistent fade.

Clarke enjoyed a week off from competition last week and had the luxury of seeing his nearest competitors fall to make significant ground. Westwood, the Order of Merit leader, who has already earned £615,651 this season, finished with a 79 at the Lancome Trophy last week to find himself joint last with Seve Ballesteros.

Montgomerie fared better to finish 11th but is still third behind the Ulsterman, with just three events left which count towards the final standings.

This week also represents Justin Rose's last chance to earn enough money to avoid the trials and tribulations of the European Tour qualifying school.

Rose has yet to make the cut in any of his tournaments since turning professional after his extraordinary fourth-place finish in the Open at Royal Birkdale. The 18-year-old, who last week battled through pre-qualifying, needs to win around £50,000 to earn his card for next season - and that means a top-four finish in Cologne.

The USPGA champion, Vijay Singh, is also in a high-quality field here, along with the defending champion, Bernhard Langer, and Europe's Ryder Cup captain, Mark James.

Faldo's farewell to guru's guru

BY ANDY FARRELL

VISITING THE Faldo Golf Institute at the Marriott Grande Vista hotel in Orlando in March, it was hard to believe Nick Faldo was across the city at Lake Nona after missing the cut at the Bay Hill Invitational. As you would expect from something named after the six-times major champion, here was a place where a golfer could really get to grips with practising the game. No details were overlooked.

A pitching area allows you to play to flags at different yardages to learn distance control but without having to move your stance. On the 27-hole putting course, there are holes specifically designed to teach lag-putting. On the nine-hole learning course, a plaque on each tee describes what should be accomplished on the hole.

"We hope that everyone who comes here," explained Jim Richerson, the general manager of the Faldo Institute, "will understand and appreciate and share Nick's love of the game and his drive."

It was Faldo's drive and his love of winning the game's "little tin cups" that drove him to form a formidable alliance with

been unthinkable when the only thing on Faldo's mind was his constant "fine-tuning with Lead". Even though Faldo lives at the complex where Leadbetter has had his golf academy for the past 10 years, the British-born teacher who grew up in Zimbabwe only received word of his star pupil's departure in a letter he picked up after returning home from a trip to the Far East at the weekend.

"It wasn't very classy," said

Leadbetter, whose father died during the summer. "You put a lot of time and effort with someone like Nick and it is a bit upsetting to get a cursory note to finish it all. We had a good relationship off the field as far as these things go. He hasn't always endeared himself to me from a personal standpoint but he has been a great pupil. I still have the utmost respect for him."

Leadbetter spent most of 1985 and '86 rebuilding Faldo's elegant swing, but one that

was suspect under pressure. In its place, they grooved an action which saw off all challengers in winning three Opens and three US Masters titles. At Muirfield in '87, Faldo parred every hole in the final round, while at Augusta 11 years later, he came from six behind to beat Greg Norman by five.

"He has been good for me and I was good for him," Leadbetter said. Leadbetter, who was already working with Nick Price - whose record of three

majors is bettered only by Faldo in the last decade - when his fame grew alongside that of Faldo. Plenty of other players have since sought out the tall man in the Panama hat on the practice ground.

Some found that the attention they received in comparison with his star client was minimal, others that the technical methods used on Faldo were not right for them. Leadbetter denies that he has just one method of teaching. "I am technical with some people, not with others," he said.

Leadbetter, in demand for books, videos and magazine articles, became a valuable commodity to the International Management Group, alongside Faldo. Both have now left, Faldo setting up his own with his manager of 20 years, John Simpson. One of their first projects was to set up the Golf Institute. "That's why, in the last year, you didn't hear my name," he said.

"Chip showed a lot of bottle because he told me that in some cases I would have to do just the opposite of what I've done for years if I wanted to improve. He's thrown in his two-pennypiece and me mine. Slowly, he's unravelled the knots and the last round of the Lancome was good feedback."

Leadbetter said the split was "a bit of a shock". But he added: "I wish him well for the future. At least our relationship lasted longer than either of Nick's two marriages."

DAVID LEADBETTER: HIS PUPILS AND RIVALS

THE CLIENTS

Once a struggling tour player himself, Leadbetter has helped the South African Denis Watson and then took on Nick Price in 1982 Open to Tom Watson at Troon, in contrast to Faldo, who would spend hours with Leadbetter. Price said: "I don't know enough about golf to hire three months." Greg Norman, Bernhard Langer and Seve Ballesteros have all worked with Leadbetter - the Spaniard doing so in 1991, his best season to date since he last won a major in 1988.

It was to Lake Nona, the Leadbetter headquarters, that Korean Se Ri Pak, the US Women's Open champion, went when she first arrived in America, while Justin Rose spent

THE RIVALS

Butch Harmon, one of four golfing sons of the former Masters champion Claude Harmon, is the next most visible coach after Leadbetter. Harmon revived Greg Norman's career in 1993, helping the Australian with the Open at Sandwich in 1993, but Norman left around the time Tiger Woods, who sought Harmon's advice as an amateur, turned pro. While Tiger is the course, Harmon can often be found on Sky's American golf coverage. Bill Ferguson, who was the club pro that taught Colin Montgomerie the game and only came out on tour

to fine-tune the Scot's action.

For a week there earlier this year, Harmon, others such as Ian Woosnam and Paul Broadhurst, joined the York-based golf value group.

Montgomerie split from Ferguson, without giving reasons at the time but hoping to improve his world ranking at the end of 1996, and spent the following season with Denis Pugh, a former Leadbetter aide, who seems to specialise in teaching a number of New Zealanders, Germans and Danes. But last month, suffering the worst slump of his career, Montgomerie returned to Ferguson.

Lindrick's Peter Cowen is now the guru of choice for Andrew Chandler's management stable, which includes Lee Westwood, Darren Clarke and Bill Ferguson. Lee Sean has been a good player. Bob Torrance was the man behind

the rise of his son Sam.

could be sorted out. Observation suggested the former was not as good and the latter not as bad as either thought.

But what was obvious was that the teacher could no longer spark his pupil into action. The relationship was stale. "Sometimes you need a new outlook," Leadbetter admitted. Enter Kochlike, an American in his mid-thirties, who has already earned £615,651 this season, finished with a 79 at the Lancome Trophy last week to find himself joint last with Seve Ballesteros.

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Hick, Caddick and Tufnell on call

BY JOHN NISBET

GRAEME HICK, the only batsman still playing first-class cricket to have scored 100 centuries, has been put on stand-by for England's Ashes tour of Australia later this year.

Hick was left out of the party announced earlier this month, but the England selectors said yesterday that he would be a non-travelling reserve, along with the pace bowler Andy Caddick and the left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell.

"The three players we have placed on stand-by are proven Test cricketers who are very much part of our current plans," the chairman of selectors, David Graveney, said.

All three will be expected to stay fit and be ready to fly to Australia at short notice. England officials also said that Gra-

ham Thorpe and Alex Tudor had passed fitness tests on back and foot injuries respectively, and would leave for Australia with the rest of the England party on 21 October.

Lancashire's John Crawley won the vote for the seventh batting place ahead of Hick, although the Worcestershire man was selected for next month's Wills International Cup one-day tournament in Bangladesh. The Somerset bowler Caddick

was the leading English wicket-taker this summer with 105 victims, but missed out to Kent's Dean Headley when the squad to tour Australia was announced. The Middlesex spinner Tufnell failed to win a place in any of the England squads, as the Essex veteran Peter Such gained a surprise call-up for the trip to Australia.

Lord MacLaurin, the chairman of the English cricket board, believes there must be

an injection of £300m into the game to produce a successful national side.

Alec Stewart's England team gave the sport a much-needed boost with the first series win on home soil for 13 years this summer when they beat South Africa 2-1, but yesterday MacLaurin said: "Investment in the game is vital. At the moment, the turnover of cricket is about £60m, but we have identified the need to

invest £300m if we are going to improve facilities for spectators around the country and develop the kind of talent we need to sustain a winning England team."

MacLaurin added: "Cricket is still our national summer sport but it has taken a severe beating over the past few years. Our Test-series win over South Africa was the first hint of a revival which I believe will surge forward into the millennium."

ON a hostile track and in testing winds the Melges 24 world championship began to settle into an Anglo-American confrontation here yesterday, though Italy's 1996 European champion, Giorgio Zuccoli, would disagree.

After a breezy first day and stiff overnight winds, Torbay was in choppy mood for the second pair of races, which saw the present UK national champion, Rob Smith, fast out of the blocks in Henri Lloyd. But he could not control the chasing Americans - "I failed to listen to my tactician Freddie Blencke at the bottom of the first spinnaker run," he said afterwards - and was hunted down first by Brian Porter and then Vince Brun.

Eventually he was pushed to seventh but came back strongly in the second to make it four winners from four races. The easterly wind had eased from 15 to 10 knots, but the confused waves were still big. The bonus for Smith, apart from moving to fourth overall, was a clean start in clear wind and the choice of the favoured left-hand side of the course up the first leg.

Germany's Manfred Donike, considered the world's foremost anti-doping expert, failed to discover even minute traces of doping products, De Merode said. "The issue is closed," he said.

Griffith Joyner, who won three gold medals in Seoul and still holds world records in the 100 and 200 metres, died on Monday in California at the age of 38. There have been allegations that Griffith Joyner used performance-enhancing drugs, plus speculation that her death was linked to the long-term effects of steroids.

Leeds have announced a 10 per cent rise in their average home gate for the season.

Leeds, assured of second place in the table going into the play-offs, have averaged 12,143, compared with 11,005 last year.

De Merode said he had as-

Wigan warn others off Gilmour with new deal

BY DAVE HADFIELD

WIGAN HAVE taken action to ensure that Lee Gilmour, their discovery of the season, will be with them for at least another four years.

The 20-year-old second-row or centre had made only one substitute appearance before this year, but has been involved in every Super League match this season, also making his debut for England against Wales in July.

Already under contract until 2000, he has now agreed an extended deal that will keep him at the club until 2002. That should warn off clubs like Bradford, who have shown a keen interest in his future.

By contrast, there are now two Wigan first-team regulars who will retire at the end of this season. Robbie McCormick,

named as the best hooker in the country this week, has rejected reduced terms for next season and will return to Australia after playing for the club with St Helens' Brett Goldspink, who triggered a mass brawl at The Stoop last Friday and so will miss London's final match at Castleford on Sunday.

Carroll is already committed to returning to Australia after just one season with the Broncos. He is to rejoin his first club, South Sydney, after failing to settle in England.

Goldspink, who joins Wigan next season, will also miss his club's last Super League match, at home to the Sheffield Eagles tomorrow night. He has been suspended

for one match for striking an opponent during the flare-up of the Broncos, but will be available for Saints' play-off match against Bradford next weekend.

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Coral/Ladbroke deal: While shrewd punters celebrate the MMC ruling, it is back to the drawing board for the Tote

Bookies queue up in race for Coral

IT IS, as an estate agent would put it, a unique opportunity to acquire an extensive and much sought-after property. Coral, the third-largest chain of betting shops in the country is back on the market, much to the annoyance of Ladbroke, who paid Bass £375.5m for the Coral estate – including 833 shops, two greyhound stadiums and an off-course credit betting business – almost nine months ago. Peter Mandelson yesterday agreed with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that the takeover would "operate against the public interest", but if Ladbroke cannot buy Coral, then someone else will.

Chris Bell, Ladbroke's managing director, says that "over 20 people have expressed an interest in acquiring this business". The identity of the successful bidder will be of immense significance both to the off-course betting market, and the chance that racing will enjoy a secure financial future.

The list of interested parties in the deal which fell apart yesterday went well beyond

visers what options are available to the Tote.

The BHB said that the decision was "a concern, at least until it becomes clear as to where this leaves the Tote".

The obvious answer is that it leaves the Tote back at square one, as a relative bystander in an off-course betting industry which turns over £500m each year. And that is where it will surely remain, unless Jones can somehow find the money to buy Coral outright.

In theory, Bell believes that "Ladbroke can sell it in any way we wish." In practice, though, and particularly in view of the six-month deadline imposed on the sale, it seems unlikely that Ladbroke will want the added complication of splitting up the chain.

Bell also believes that "Coral has had a good year, and it's a better business now than it was when we bought it." An enforced sale it may be, but not necessarily at a bargain price, and the Tote will do well to raise anything like the sum which Ladbroke paid for Coral in the first place.

There were brief, carefully worded expressions of regret from both Tote House and Portman Square yesterday that the residents considered if there might yet be a Plan B.

"We are disappointed that the decision means we will now lose the shops we will purchase conditionally from Ladbroke Group at the turn of the year and have been trading so successfully for the past eight months," Peter Jones, the Tote's chairman, said.

"Nonetheless, we will seek to explore with our financial ad-

HISTORY OF CORAL BOOKMAKERS

1926: Joe Coral launches career as an on-course bookmaker

1943: Starts credit telephone betting office in London's West End

1961: Opens first high-street shop on legalisation of betting shops

1962: Owns just 23 of Britain's 13,340 betting shops

1971: Merger with Mark Lane chain brings Coral's estate to 589 shops

1974: Coral becomes public company and moves into hotels, casinos and bingo

1977: Four firms dominate off-course betting. Coral owns 24% of Britain's 13,254 betting shops

1981: Taken over by Bass (Joe Coral becomes life president)

1995: Buys Arthur Prince chain of 114 shops

1996: Joe Coral dies

1998: Ladbroke announces a £375.5m takeover but the deal is referred to the Monopolies & Merger commission

1998 (September): The Trade Secretary, Peter Mandelson, blocks Ladbroke's acquisition of Coral bookmakers chain from Bass



The Coral ruling has started a race for other bookmakers to join William Hill, Ladbroke, Stanley and the Tote as forces in the industry

GOODWOOD

HYPERTON
2.00 Sound Appeal
2.30 BE MY WISH (nap)
3.00 Mihman
3.30 Nasasyam

GOING: Good to firm (Pondrometer reading 33). **STALLS:** Straight course – stands side road course – inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** High for 230, 230, 8, 426. **FAIR:** Right hand course with sharp bends and gradients. **COURSE:** N of Chichester between A295 and A296. Chichester station 4m. **ADMISSION:** Richmond Enclosure £7, Grand Enclosure £11. Public Enclosure £5 (over-65s £3). Accompanied under-17s a free full enclosure. CAR PARK: £2, or free. **LEADING TRAINERS:** R Hannon 36-363 (19%), P Cole 32-354 (20.8%). J Gordon 27-77 (16.4%), J Dunlop 27-29 (2.3%). J Codd 26-111 (23.4%), J Balling 26-141 (22.9%). **LEADING JOCKEYS:** T Quinn 47-312 (16.5%), L Dester 43-203 (20.7%), K Fallon 18-100 (14%). Pat Eddery 37-216 (12.9%), R Hill 21-239 (6.2%), K Fallon 18-100 (12%). **FAVOURITES:** 249-720 (34.6%). **BLINKERS:** FIRST TIME: Night Spirit (23); King Of Tunes (300).

2.00 UCELLO II & UBU III TROPHY NH JOCKEYS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m Penalty Value £3,713

1. 2001 FAST FORWARD FRED (4) (Straight Forward) M Hill 7 10 ... A Bradley 3
2. 0502 JUNGLE DANCER (4) (F O'S Raging) P O'Sullivan 7 10 ... A Procter 14
3. 0503 JUNGLE DANCER (4) (F O'S Raging) P O'Sullivan 7 10 ... A Procter 17
4. 0514 DAMEGOLD (4/2) (C) (Dancer Dazzler) M Chapman 6 14 ... R Dwyer 1
5. 0523 3 SPICK AND SPAN (1/4) (Exasperate) M Chapman 6 14 ... R Dwyer 3
6. 0504 0 MOONLIGHT INVADER (10) (A 8 B Portman) J Portman 4 13 ... C Richards 3
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Mindless exploitation of the popular game

FROM THE extreme of Alan Harker's reactionary declaration 30 years ago that matches would not be televised live while he remained secretary of the Football League, to the bombardment we have come under.

This week the Professional Footballers' Association chief executive, Gordon Taylor, told a pay-per-view conference: "I'm in the business and even I'm saying: 'Oh, no, not another live game'."

Taylor's concern is understandable. Sky's transmission of tonight's big encounter between Manchester United and Liverpool makes it 15 live matches in 11 days on satellite and terrestrial channels. Even allowing for Sky's limited audience, this mindless exploitation of foot-

ball's popularity should carry a health warning.

Imagine a time in the future when students of sporting history go back to see where the rot set in for a game that had risen above all others. If so, who was to blame?

The clubs in their myopic failure to understand that greed brings its own retribution? Opportunists who saw football as a vehicle for personal prosperity? Administrators blind to the possibility of overkill?

Perhaps all three. Certainly football is on dangerous ground if it believes that there is no limit to what can be extracted from the public, both in ticket prices and television subscriptions.

I was mentioning this the other day to a friend of many years, an

Arsenal season-ticket holder who first watched them during the Second World War and still follows the game closely. What he does not do is switch on automatically whenever football is shown on television.

"Of course, if it's my club on the box I'm glued to the screen, but otherwise it takes the best teams to get my attention," he said. "I'm sure there are people so addicted to the game that they are suckers for everything that's shown, but I don't know any."

Another friend often works on his stamp collection while keeping an ear cocked to the television commentary. "I know that the exciting moments will be repeated in action replays, so I get on with what I'm doing," he said.



KEN JONES

There may be a lesson here for the clubs and their television paymasters. If people are coming to regard football on television as background entertainment, they

are unlikely to subscribe on a match-to-match basis.

The vibes I am getting correspond roughly to a decision taken personally when the Premier League took up with Rupert Murdoch. It was not only to be selective about televised football, but to ration the experience.

Later, when appearing on a BBC radio programme, I discovered that the Football Association's chief executive, Graham Kelly, had chosen a similar policy. Kelly may not remember this, but I have it on a recording.

You can come across football managers who admit privately that they only watch televised matches from which valuable information may be gleaned, or those that

promise to be exceptional. "There is too much football on television," the Football Association's director of coaching, Howard Wilkinson, said when in charge of Leeds United. A man of varied tastes, Wilkinson feared the effect of overkill.

Sky's transmission of last Sunday's match between Arsenal and Manchester United included the usual hyperbolic references to forthcoming attractions: a full week of football on Murdoch's channels. This made you wonder where the game is going, and what the future holds for it.

Anyone with half a grasp of simple economics is bound to feel that the Football League's proposed experiment with pay-per-view is asking too much of potential

subscribers. The average viewing figures for matches shown live by Sky Sports and the two main terrestrial channels are down further from last season. The recent UEFA Cup tie between Liverpool and Kosice reached only 2.2m viewers when put out by Channel 5.

What we have is a situation that caused Taylor to suggest that English football could find itself looking at a dead goose, instead of golden eggs.

These are matches the viewer is getting free or on subscription," Taylor said. "What is going to happen when they are asked to pay?"

If football's negotiators have any sense, and sometimes you have to wonder, they should give that thought some serious attention.

England coach sues newspaper as FA dismisses claims it did not authorise CD interview deal as 'rubbish'

Hoddle's call-up for his lawyers

BY NICK HARRIS

GLENN HODDLE's lawyer said last night the England coach was suing a national newspaper for suggesting he had jeopardised the Football Association's commercial interests.

Peter Baines, of Pictons Solicitors, said it had been alleged that because Hoddle has endorsed a series of CDs containing interviews with England players - each CD is introduced by Hoddle and has a player in an England kit on the cover - the FA has lost out on commercial income. It has also been suggested, he added, that Hoddle's endorsement of the CDs would cause the FA "major commercial embarrassment".

"The FA have confirmed that they have been fully aware of Glenn Hoddle's involvement and that it has their blessing," Baines said in a statement. "The [newspaper article] is clearly calculated to discredit our client and to damage his reputation and we have been instructed to take legal action to obtain redress for our client."

Hoddle's decision to take legal action comes after several months of criticism about his behaviour while



Glenn Hoddle, who yesterday started to fight back against allegations about his commercial activities, presents his World Cup Diary to the media at its launch in August

Peter Joy

in charge of the national side. He was particularly vilified for using the faith healer, Eileen Dwyer, in his squad's preparations for France 98, and for profiting from the publication of his World Cup diary - complete with revelations about a number of current players. It appears Hoddle now believes there is a campaign among some sections of the media to oust him from his job and he has taken the action to an escalation of allegations about his conduct.

The FA moved to support Hoddle yesterday, dismissing claims that the CD endorsement had been unauthorised as "absolute rubbish". An FA spokesman, Steve Double, said: "We have been fully aware of Glenn's involvement in this and it doesn't conflict in any way with our commercial policies. It is only a problem

for us if a player or coach endorses a product in conflict with us." Double added that all endorsements were scrutinised by the FA's commercial department to ensure that they did not conflict with other sponsorships - a player advertising a breakdown recovery company company, for example, when Green Flag already sponsors the national side.

"Players and staff are free to endorse products as long as they are not in conflict," Double said. In the case of the CDs, he said: "We're effectively talking about an interview."

Baines, Hoddle's agent, is also a director of three other companies, but their sole function, said Baines, is to handle his commercial income. The Sanctuary is currently applying for charitable status and Baines added that Hoddle was entitled to earn money from other sources.

"When you are a public figure and commercial opportunities come your way, it's not surprising to take some of them," he said.

Dennis Roach, Hoddle's agent, denied that the England coach has abused his position for financial gain. "Between last December and the World Cup, Glenn Hoddle could

have made himself thousands but he knocked it back to concentrate on his job coaching the England football team," Roach said. He added that Hoddle had turned down offers of advertising work that may have netted him hundreds of thousands of pounds, including commercials - for Sainsbury's, a cola company, and a car manufacturer, among others - and had also turned down a lucrative television commercial for the sports equipment maker, Mitre.

Apart from his diary and its serialisation, however, Hoddle does have incomes from several sources. In addition to money from his book, he makes money from the CD work, from a contract with Mitre to have his name on footballs and football boots, and from television punditry on ITV.

Hoddle is not alone in being an England manager who has profited while in charge of the national side. Bobby Robson and Terry Venables both wrote books while in charge, while Graham Taylor was reportedly paid a large fee to take part in the notorious documentary that trailed him through his time in the job. Robson's and Venables' books differed from Hoddle's, however, in that they were not controversial. Hoddle's mistake was to make his controversial

and then have it serialised in the Sun, earning him another six-figure sum.

It is not known how much Hoddle was paid for endorsing the CDs, and it is not known how well they will sell. A spokesman for the manufacturers, a subsidiary of a company called Going for a Song, said: "We're struggling to find them anywhere at the moment." He added that a trial launch earlier this year, with the CDs priced at £4.99, would only be repeated, perhaps by Christmas, when distributors could be found. The new price will be £2.99. For Hoddle, the price of involvement has led him to sue.

Dicks defies the odds to make memorable return

BY TOMMY STANIFORTH

"Then I went over to Alabama to see a surgeon called James Andrews. He said there was an operation I could have but it was a one-in-10 chance of succeeding and a 60-40 chance it would get worse. When I came round from the anaesthetic I was in absolute agony. That was my lowest moment, but once the pain went away I realised why I had done it. All I want to do is play football."

Dicks got a fantastic reception from the 25,000-strong crowd on Tuesday and wearing the captain's armband he was inspirational from the first whistle. The only disappointment was that although he helped the Hammers win 1-0 it was not enough to prevent them going out of the competition 2-1 on aggregate.

"Where football is concerned I don't need motivating," said the 30-year-old left-back. "It has been a long

time. I went out there and I knew I would get a good reception - although I didn't think it would be that good - and that is all I need. The adrenaline started flowing."

"After the first five minutes I was shattered. But the longer it went on the better I felt. Although we won 1-0 it was a bad night for the club. But for me it was a memorable night."

Dicks' performance has almost guaranteed his place in the team against Southampton on Monday. "I shall have a couple of days off to let the knee settle down and hopefully I shall play on Monday. But there are a lot of great players here now and you have to really fight hard for your place in every game," he said.

Redknapp, the West Ham manager, is ready to pick him again and said: "After a performance like that it is difficult to leave him out of our next game. I shall have to find a place for him. I can't speak highly enough about what Julian has



Dicks: Risky knee operation

achieved. To come back and play again after the horrific surgery he has been through, and without having trained, he is a freak."

"Fifteen months ago we sat in my office and he said he was finished, his knee was knackered. The operation was a last-ditch attempt, and even after it the doctors said he'd never play again. It shows how much character he has, and why he is one of the all-time great West Ham players."

STEVE SIMONSEN may have become Britain's most expensive goalkeeper yesterday - but he knows that his price tag alone will not guarantee a place in the Everton first team.

The England Under-21 international also became the country's most expensive teenager when he moved to Goodison Park for £3.3m from Tranmere Rovers yesterday, after months of negotiations.

Simonsen does not expect to go straight into the side for Saturday's home game with Blackburn. Thomas Myhre, the Howard Kendall purchase who took over from Neville Southall last season, is in the man in possession of the No 1 jersey - and Simonsen is sure he will have to wait for his chance.

The Norwegian international Myhre, who cost £200,000 last November, has been put under intense pressure by the arrival of Simonsen as the Everton manager, Walter Smith, took his spending to

more than £15m since assuming the reins in the summer. Simonsen said: "Thomas has come in and done a good job. I've been watching him and he's been brilliant since he arrived to take over from Neville Southall last season. It will be good competition for me, and I know Thomas feels the same way about it."

"Obviously I'd love to be thrown in, but if Thomas keeps his form up there is nothing I can do. It will be a case of just chipping away and hoping I get the chance."

Simonsen spent time training alongside Myhre at Everton last season, and has also had special coaching from Southall at Tranmere. Now he has the chance to take over from them both. Simonsen added: "The price doesn't bother me, you tend not to think about that. All I want to do is get down to my work."

Simonsen has made a swift rise to prominence, having played fewer than 40 League games for Tranmere.

He forced his way into John Aldridge's side last season and set a new club record of seven consecutive clean sheets. At 6ft 2in, he won a reputation for the ability to command his area.

Simonsen added: "It's been such a long time waiting for the move, particularly as I first heard about the rumours at the back end of last season. I always felt I'd like to move on, but I'm settled in the area now and I don't even have to move house."



Simonsen: Awaits his chance

Smith splashes out on Simonsen



Smith: Risky knee operation

SPORT

HODDLE GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS P28 • FALDO'S GOODBYE GURU P25

Ferguson demands more pride

THE REBEL Manchester United supporters can take at face value BSkyB's promise not to further tamper with kick-off times if their Old Trafford takeover is successful. Why should they? The satellite broadcaster is doing it already.

United versus Liverpool is arguably the fiercest-fought match in the Premiership season and a fixture as redolent of Lancashire tradition as hot pot. So they play it on the day least accustomed to hosting football, Thursday.

If you are one of Old Trafford's long-distance season ticket holders who has no chance of making the match after work then you will be interested, if not wholly surprised, in the reason: television.

BSkyB wanted to show the game live but its normal transmission times of Sunday or Monday were ruled out because of both clubs' European commitments next week. Saturday morning was mooted, as it has been for this fixture in the past, but then someone saw a gap in the crowded calendar. Hence tonight's 8pm kick-off.

The change has been embraced by the clubs because it gives them more time to prepare for Bayern Munich and Kosice respectively, but when United need to cultivate as many friends as possible among their supporters - yesterday the 28,000 shareholders were mailed leaflets opposing the BSkyB takeover - the timing is unfortunate.

Tonight's match will be the eighth shown live on television in the last nine days (*Match of the Day* highlights were shown on Saturday in addition), which ought to merit a reference to the Monopolies Commission, if only from the steakable chunk of the population who have no interest in football. It ought to be too much, except this match whets even over-fed appetites.

BY GUY HODGSON

"You never know how these games will go because they are two good teams," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday. "It's always a hard game, passionate and entertaining, and there are a lot of good players on both sides. It's an amazing derby because this is not a new-found rivalry, it's been going on for three decades at least, at city level as well as between the teams."

United gave their fans every reason to fear the worst in this pressure-cooker game with a performance against Arsenal on Sunday which was so feeble that to describe their displays limp would be to insult incoming toenail sufferers.

"I think my players realise how badly they let themselves down," Ferguson said, darkly.

One could question the United manager's tactic of playing Ryan Giggs and Dwight Yorke against the towering Arsenal central defenders, but what was particularly disappointing was the lack of force in midfield. Angels normally fear to tread when Roy Keane and Nicky Butt are snapping on Sunday, even before Butt was sent off, Patrick Vieira and Michael Hughes were allowed to dominate.

"Roy Keane is not a good loser," Ferguson said, anticipating a positive reaction tonight from a player who spent nearly a year recovering from a knee injury. "He won't have enjoyed what happened on Sunday."

"He's done better than I thought. We'll have to give him a break soon because he's been out for long time and although he can survive on adrenalin for a few games he will hit a plateau or even dip. He needs to restore his energy levels."

A fully fit Keane against Paul Ince would be a clash to savour, particularly as the latter was described as a "big-time char-

acter" by Ferguson this week in a television documentary. Ince missed Saturday's draw against Charlton, however, and is doubtful for tonight.

His presence will be missed because, after comprehensively defeating Kosice in Slovakia, Liverpool were fortunate to get a point on Saturday when their chronic defensive flaws were exposed once more. Each year you expect something better from this richly talented team but, even though players come and go, the character-hair-wrenchingly inconsistent - remains the same.

There lies the key to the match. Last season Liverpool were reduced to 10 men for a half after Michael Owen was sent off yet they held on for a draw, denting United's title challenge. A show of similar backbone could embarrass United, but who knows how this fickle team will perform tonight?

"There are no worries about motivating the players. They don't come any bigger than us against United," Liverpool's joint-manager, Roy Evans, said.

"I have plenty of players," Ferguson said, mindful of both sides' natures. "I just have to pick the right team. The Giggs-Yorke partnership didn't work at all against Arsenal but it doesn't mean I won't try it again. There won't be a lot of changes although I have options, including bringing in Ole Gunnar Solskjær, Andy Cole and Paul Scholes."

If that suggests Ferguson is unlikely to release any of his squad, it is correct. Crystal Palace are rumoured to want Teddy Sheringham and Aston Villa have inquired about Andy Cole, but neither will succeed.

"I want to win the lottery but I can't," Ferguson said. "There are no players for sale. We need a strong squad to survive the season and we've got one. I think we should keep it."

Kournikova the princess of power



Russia's Anna Kournikova shows the power which proved too much for Adriana Garsi, of the Czech Republic, during the first round of the Princess Cup in Tokyo yesterday. Kournikova, seeded No 5, won 6-2, 6-1. AFP

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3724 Thursday 24 September By Mass Wednesday's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
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ACROSS

- It ensures a fair run for one's money (13)
- Try and goal reported at all? (9)
- Communications with the Parisian in American state (5)
- Green, needing oxygen to survive (5)
- One at the wheel's a supplier covering Michigan (9)
- Officer has to tack outside harbour (7)
- Fishes North for king crabs? (7)
- Falls back on reserves! (7)
- Widely-known wrench on charge (7)
- Whip's turned back red (one hears) in general (9)
- Left bouquet for a girl (5)
- Abuse no note on instrument (5)
- Ill-fated star? Possibly a red giant (9)
- Chap in saloon could be the waiter here (5-8)
- Production - otherwise liquidation (9)
- Fix up English climbing plant (5)
- Note to dictate for further requisitions? (7)
- Are they known by their featherings? (7)
- Gypsum placed in box (5, 4)
- Almost raise spirits, bagging century in fine display (5)
- Expansive spirit has struggle entertaining mounting reserve (13)
- There's always a little stoppage-time in these (7, 6)
- Sign off with name in a note (9)
- Moan audibly with a twinge of a nerve (7)
- Covet an absurd amount of Spanish money (7)
- Finish recess, running out of time (5)
- Remains with daughter in the city (5)

DOWN

- Soldier met disheartened war-worn vets (3-6)
- One at the wheel's a supplier covering Michigan (9)
- Fix up English climbing plant (5)
- Note to dictate for further requisitions? (7)
- Are they known by their featherings? (7)
- Gypsum placed in box (5, 4)
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McMahon defiant as he leaves Swindon

BY RUPERT METCALF

STEVE McMAHON's reign as the manager of Swindon Town came to a predictable end yesterday. The former Liverpool and England midfielder announced his resignation and said he was moving back to the north-west for family reasons.

McMahon, who replaced the current England No 2, John Gorman, as Swindon's manager in November 1994, left the Whitemore club after a run of bad results and disappointment at his failure to win over the fans.

McMahon, 37, has gone after almost four seasons in charge at the County Ground - a spell which included winning the Second Division title in 1995-96.

"It was a family decision for me to come to Swindon in the first place, and when all this started to affect my family I knew it was time to go," McMahon said. "They have had to move back to Southampton and that's no good for anyone. I just hope the supporters are happy now they have got their way, and they will come back to watch games again now I've gone."

"I have had four years here and I think I've done a good job. If you look at the history of Swindon Town, this club has only ever won two championships. I'm very proud to have helped them win one of them."

The Leeds United manager, George Graham, has responded to growing speculation that he is about to go to Tottenham Hotspur by giving assurances that he will not walk out on his contract at Elland Road.

The Spurs chairman, Alan

Sugar, has already had one request to speak to Graham dismissed by Leeds, but there

have been reports that, once Saturday's Premiership fixture between the two clubs is over, a deal will be struck.

Concerned at the effect that

Graham's departure would

have on the League Managers

Association's code of conduct,

which forbids its members to

walk out on contracts, John

Barnwell, of the LMA, has con-

tacted the former Arsenal man-

ager and asked him about his

plans. "I told George it was

none of my business what he

wished to do, but it was my busi-

ness how he went about it,"

Barnwell said. "He categori-

ally said to me that he had no

intention whatsoever of walking

out on his contracts."

However, the football agent, Eric Hall, said he thought Graham would definitely take

charge at Tottenham - possibly

before Saturday's game at White Hart Lane. "Well placed

sources at Tottenham have

told me that there have been

discussions, and I believe

George will cost Tottenham

about £2m," Hall said.

Aberdeen have signed the

striker Robbie Winters from

Dundee United for a fee be-

lieved to be around £700,000.

The Scotland forward, Billy

Dodds, has moved to Tamadice

Park as part of the deal.

The Crystal Palace chair-

man, Mark Goldberg, has con-

firmed his interest in buying the

England and Manchester Unit-

ed striker, Teddy Sheringham.

Although he funded more

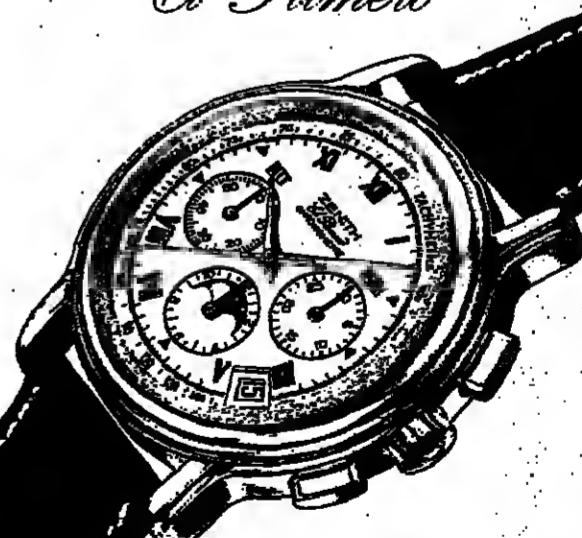
than half-a-dozen new signings

over the summer, Goldberg is

prepared to approve even more

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CHRONOMASTER
El Primero



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